

EASTERN INTERIOR FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE
REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

PUBLIC MEETING

VOLUME I

Pike's Landing
Fairbanks, Alaska
November 8, 2017
11:00 a.m.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Sue Entsminger, Chair
Andy Bassich
Lester Erhart
William Glanz
Virgil Umphenour
Donald Woodruff

Regional Council Coordinator, Katya Wessels

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(Fairbanks, Alaska - 11/8/2017)

(On record)

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I'll call the meeting to order. If we could all stand for an invocation.

Will you do it for me, Lester.

MR. ERHART: Yes.

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

(Invocation)

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thanks, Lester. My secretary Andrew can't be here. He has another conflicting meeting today, but he plans to be here tomorrow.

Would you like to do the roll call.

MS. WESSELS: Sure. Roll call.

Susan Entsminger.

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Here.

MS. WESSELS: Andy Bassich.

MR. BASSICH: Here.

MS. WESSELS: Lester Erhart.

MR. ERHART: Here.

MS. WESSELS: Bill Glanz.

MR. GLANZ: Here.

MS. WESSELS: Donald Woodruff.

MR. WOODRUFF: Here.

MS. WESSELS: Virgil Umphenour.

1 MR. UMPHENOUR: Here.

2

3 MS. WESSELS: Andrew Firmin.

4

5 (No response)

6

7 MS. WESSELS: Andrew is not here and
8 just as Sue said he'll be here tomorrow. He has other
9 conflicting excused business.

10

11 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you,
12 Katya. Welcome you all to the meeting. We're going to
13 start with some introductions. So Katya and then go
14 around the room and then we'll do everyone that's
15 online.

16

17 MS. WESSELS: Good morning, everyone
18 and welcome. My name is Katya Wessels and I'm the
19 Eastern Interior RAC coordinator.

20

21 Thank you.

22

23 MS. MAAS: Lisa Maas, wildlife
24 biologist with the Office of Subsistence Management.

25

26 MR. LIND: Good morning. My name is
27 Orville Lind. I'm with the Office of Subsistence
28 Management, Native Liaison.

29

30 MS. GRONQUIST: Good morning. I'm Ruth
31 Gronquist and I am a wildlife biologist with the
32 Eastern Interior Field Office of BLM and we're located
33 here in Fairbanks.

34

35 MR. MATHEWS: I'm Vince Mathews. I'm a
36 little late, but that's okay. I work for Yukon Flats,
37 Kanuti and Arctic Refuges as their subsistence
38 coordinator.

39

40 MS. PARKER MCNEILL: I'm Doreen Parker
41 McNeill. I'm management biologist supervisor with the
42 Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

43

44 MS. KLOSTERMAN: I'm Megan Klosterman.
45 I'm a wildlife biologist with OSM.

46

47 MR. HAWKALUK: Good morning. I'm
48 Nathan Hawkaluk, the Acting Refuge Manager for the
49 Yukon Flats National Wildlife Refuge.

50

1
2 MR. LORENZINI: I'm Tim Lorenzini, the
3 environmental educator for Tetlin National Wildlife
4 Refuge.
5

6 MR. FLAGEN: My name is Ross Flagen,
7 the Deputy Manager for Tetlin National Wildlife Refuge.
8

9 MR. TWITCHELL: Hollis Twitchell,
10 Assistant Manager, Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.
11

12 MS. MCDAVID: Good morning. I'm Brooke
13 McDavid. I'm with the Division of Subsistence with
14 Alaska Department of Fish and Game here in Fairbanks.
15

16 MS. OKADA: Good morning. I'm Marcy
17 Okada. I'm the subsistence coordinator for Yukon-
18 Charley Rivers National Preserve.
19

20 MR. KELLY: Good morning. I'm James
21 Kelly, Natural Resource Director for Council of
22 Athabaskan Tribal Government.
23

24 MR. PETER: Walter Peter III and I'm a
25 student from Alaska (indiscernible).
26

27 MS. SOLOMON: Miranda Solomon from Fort
28 Yukon.
29

30 MR. SUMMERS: Good morning. My name is
31 Clarence Summers. I work for the National Park Service
32 as a Subsistence Manager and I also serve on the
33 Interagency Staff Committee.
34

35 MR. MASCHMANN: I'm Gerald Maschmann
36 with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in the
37 Fisheries Branch here in Fairbanks.
38

39 MR. BERG: Nate Berg, wildlife
40 biologist with Tetlin National Wildlife Refuge.
41

42 MR. BAYLESS: Good morning, Madame
43 Chair. Shawn Bayless, Refuge Manager for Tetlin
44 Refuge.
45

46 MS. SMELCER: Shirley Smelcer for
47 CRITR, Ahtna Intertribal.
48

49 MR. CAIN: Bruce Cain with Ahtna
50

1 Intertribal.

2

3 MS. KENNER: I'm Pippa Kenner with the
4 Office of Subsistence Management.

5

6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Anyone online
7 want to introduce yourselves.

8

9 MS. OWEN: Good morning. This is Pat
10 Owen. I'm a wildlife biologist at Denali National
11 Park.

12

13 MR. ROBBINS: Frank Robbins, Alaska
14 Department of Fish and Game, area biologist,
15 Glennallen.

16

17 MR. SHARP: This is Dan Sharp with
18 Bureau of Land Management in Anchorage.

19

20 MR. BURCH: This is Mark Burch with the
21 Department of Fish and Game.

22

23 MS. KLEIN: This is Jill Klein with
24 Alaska Department of Fish and Game also.

25

26 MR. MCKENNA: This is Brian McKenna,
27 Tanana Chiefs Conference.

28

29 MR. PETER: Isaac Peter, Gwichyaa Zhee
30 Gwich'in Tribal Government, Fort Yukon.

31

32 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Next. Anyone
33 else online.

34

35 MS. BRINKMAN: This is Charlotte
36 Brinkman. I'm just the Tok local participant.

37

38 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Anyone else
39 online.

40

41 (No comments)

42

43 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. I saw
44 three new faces walk in the door. Do you want to
45 introduce yourselves.

46

47 MS. CONITZ: Jan Conitz, Fish and
48 Wildlife Service here in Fairbanks, Subsistence.

49

50

1 MS. PETRIVELLI: Pat Petrivelli, the
2 Bureau of Indian Affairs Subsistence Anthropologist out
3 of Anchorage.

4
5 MS. MONCRIEFF: Catherine Moncrieff
6 with the Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association.

7
8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you.
9 Welcome, everyone. I am going to let you know that we
10 apologize that the meeting got changed from Tok to
11 Fairbanks. We were having issues of having a quorum,
12 so we needed to make a decision so we could have a
13 quorum here. It's time to review and adopt the agenda.
14 I have a couple announcements first.

15
16 Andrew Firmin won't be here today and
17 he would like to take the proposals in his region --
18 I'm going to have to pull up the ones he's interested
19 in. It's basically in his region 25. He said he'd be
20 happy if we would take those up tomorrow.

21
22 Do we have any problem with that?

23
24 MR. BASSICH: Nope.

25
26 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Let me
27 tell you which ones they are. And then in the meantime
28 -- let's just look at them real quick. 52, 53A and B,
29 and 56, okay, will go tomorrow. Then I had a request.
30 These crossover proposals in 11 and 13, one person from
31 Ahtna cannot be here tomorrow and would like to be here
32 for those. Would we have any trouble taking those
33 first?

34
35 That would mean the crossover proposals
36 17, 18 and 19 will come after 16/50 and we will do 19
37 first. At our SRC meeting we got wrapped around the
38 axle pretty bad taking up 17 first. There's more
39 information in 19 that helps you understand the
40 proposal.

41
42 Okay. I think that's all I have for
43 changes and requests. Did I miss one? Oh, yeah, I
44 needed to add the wildlife special action. There's a
45 Wildlife Special Action Request 17-05 and we will take
46 it after the proposals. Okay.

47
48 And then we had on the agenda the Board
49 of Fisheries proposals and Board of Game. Do you guys
50

1 have any numbers or do you just want to look at it
2 today and then when it's on the agenda just bring them
3 up then, the numbers that you're interested in?

4
5 MS. WESSELS: It's not on the agenda.

6
7 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh, we didn't
8 put it on the agenda. My apologies. So I would say
9 that would have to come right after all the other
10 proposals are done we'll look at Board of Game unless
11 you guys have another place you'd like it.

12
13 MR. BASSICH: Sue.

14
15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Andy.

16
17 MR. BASSICH: It might be useful if
18 some of these are going to pertain to the Fort Yukon
19 area or the Upper River to take these up when Andrew is
20 here.

21
22 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Right.

23
24 MR. BASSICH: He's pretty active in the
25 fisheries up there, so maybe we could put those on the
26 agenda for tomorrow.

27
28 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. I'm
29 pretty flexible, guys. If we forget something, I'm not
30 opposed to bringing it up as we well know. This can
31 happen because we're Bush rats, I guess, and we might
32 not have it down perfectly when we do these agenda
33 items, but we thank God for our coordinator to help us
34 out here.

35
36 Is there any other ones?

37
38 (No comments)

39
40 MR. WOODRUFF: Make a motion we adopt
41 the agenda.

42
43 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I have a
44 motion. Is there a second.

45
46 MR. GLANZ: I'll second it.

47
48 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any other
49 discussion.

50

1 (No comments)

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All in favor.

4

5 IN UNISON: Aye.

6

7 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Anyone
8 opposed.

9

10 (No opposing votes)

11

12 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, passes.
13 Next. Review and adoption of the minutes.

14

15 Virgil.

16

17 MR. UMPHENOUR: Yeah, I've read all the
18 minutes. There's a few typos in there. I have one
19 correction and that is on Page 8 where I was referring
20 to a study done by the Park Service that Hollis
21 Twitchell had given us and it was pertaining to the
22 Toklat River fall chum salmon and the wolves that were
23 radio-collared that after the Park Service got the
24 mortality signal they recovered the bones and then run
25 them through the isotope analysis and it says here in
26 our minutes the study showed that on
27 average 20 percent of wolves diet consisted of salmon.
28 That's not what it was. It was on average 24 percent
29 of the annual diet of the wolves was salmon and one
30 wolf had over 40 percent of its annual diet of salmon.

31

32 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. So
33 that is your correction?

34

35 MR. UMPHENOUR: That's the correction.

36

37 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

38

39 MR. UMPHENOUR: Other than that I
40 didn't see any other things that I noticed that should
41 be changed other than the fact that we have a few
42 typos.

43

44 So I move to accept the minutes.

45

46 MR. GLANZ: I'll second that.

47

48 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: With the
49 corrections?

50

1 MR. UMPHENOUR: With the corrections.

2

3 MR. GLANZ: I'll second.

4

5 MR. UMPHENOUR: Unless someone else has
6 another question.

7

8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Have you all
9 looked at it, do you have any other corrections.

10

11 (No comments)

12

13 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any other
14 discussion.

15

16 (No comments)

17

18 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All in favor.

19

20 IN UNISON: Aye.

21

22 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Anyone
23 opposed.

24

25 (No opposing votes)

26

27 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Motion
28 passes. Now Council Member reports.

29

30 Start with you, Andy.

31

32 MR. BASSICH: Okay. I guess the main
33 thing on my mind as always is usually the fisheries
34 topics. I, like everyone on the Yukon River was really
35 pleased to see the king salmon come in and be able to
36 prosecute fisheries in a way we hadn't really expected.
37 So a lot of subsistence harvest, good commercial fall
38 chum -- summer chum harvest.

39

40 So I think managers need to be
41 commended for being able to adapt in season quickly and
42 make sure that fish were out there. So I just wanted
43 to put on the record that I thought managers, both
44 Federal and State, did a tremendous job on the
45 fisheries.

46

47 It doesn't mean we're out of the woods.
48 Historically we're still low, so we still need to
49 continue to do conservation and education to people.

50

1 My personal opinion is we need to continue conservation
2 until we get at least one full life cycle and/or we
3 come back up to historic levels of king salmon.

4
5 The fall chum run in Eagle was
6 exceptional this year as it was everywhere. Most
7 people up there did extremely well on their fall chum
8 fishing, which is a really critical resource to the
9 people in Eagle.

10
11 I guess my biggest concerns right now
12 are probably the caribou and the moose in our area.
13 I'm not sure of the exact numbers, but I know not many
14 moose were taken from the Eagle area. We're still
15 having a lot of issues with a lot of competition in our
16 area. The caribou never really showed up in our area
17 during the earlier fall hunting season, so not many
18 caribou were harvested by Eagle residents either.

19
20 I wasn't able to attend the Fortymile
21 Coalition meeting due to river conditions. I did
22 listen in on it and I guess we'll be getting more
23 reports on that during the meeting, but it sounded like
24 -- I did try and listen in. It sounded like it was a
25 really productive meeting and I guess there will be a
26 follow-up meeting in January on that.

27
28 Probably my second biggest concern
29 really is climate change and the way it's impacting
30 animal migrations and also the hunting seasons. I'm
31 not sure there's much we can do about that except for I
32 think we're going to begin to see more and more
33 proposals that are trying to extend seasons later into
34 the year, which is really important for people who live
35 in remote areas and don't have refrigeration and other
36 means to take care of their meat. I think we're going
37 to have to do some adaptations to some of these long-
38 standing hunts for the benefit of people that live in
39 remote areas.

40
41 I think the other issue -- well, that's
42 good enough for now.

43
44 Thank you.

45
46 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Lester.

47
48 MR. ERHART: Yeah, it was good to see
49 the king salmon come back from the Yukon. I didn't

50

1 know I missed them that much. But that was a great
2 thing. We had a good fall chum run too.

3
4 That's about it.

5
6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Bill.

7
8 MR. GLANZ: I hate to beat a dead
9 horse, but we still have a problem with the caribou
10 hunters in our Central area. We had 575 caribou taken
11 in two days in our neighborhood. The troopers even
12 told us at the coalition meeting the other day that we
13 were so afraid to get out of the trucks. We didn't get
14 out of the trucks unless there's a life or death
15 situation. That's how bad it was. It was crazy. There
16 was fog. People were down in the ditch dressing
17 caribou while somebody was shooting over the top of
18 them by Galena.

19
20 When I was in the Service, we used to
21 have a free fire zone. Anything that moved you shot
22 it. That's what it reminded me of. Anything that
23 moved got shot.

24
25 Anyway, the caribou went up to 75,000
26 on the herd numbers roughly. We started with a few
27 thousand in 1991. So they're really making a comeback.
28 The moose are doing pretty good with all the big burns
29 we had in '04, 6.4 million acres. There's lots of
30 browse for them.

31
32 Also the caribou are losing weight, the
33 new ones. They've been going down for the last five
34 years. So we're going to increase the harvest on them,
35 which we had to do by us and the Canadian coalition.
36 We set these numbers. When it got over 70,000, we were
37 going to take 4 percent of the herd. Whereas we got
38 75,000, what the guesstimate is from all the censuses
39 we have of the animals. So it's really positive in
40 there.

41
42 I don't know what we're going to do
43 about it. There's no sport hunting there. Now they're
44 going to be at 90-110,000 taken out in this winter hunt
45 maybe, but I'm guessing. Just to keep the herd down
46 because the caribou weight has been going down six
47 years straight, which means they aren't getting into
48 the other areas. They're still stuck in the same place
49 they've been running around in the last 40 years that I
50

1 can remember.

2

3 They'll start going when they get
4 hungry enough. They'll start going across into the
5 White. They used to run from Fort Yukon all the way to
6 Fairbanks, Dawson, White Horse and they're starting to
7 come back into those areas, so everything is pretty
8 successful for the caribou.

9

10 I wish I could say the same for the
11 moose, but we got a few.

12

13 Anyway, talk to you later.

14

15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Don.

16

17 MR. WOODRUFF: Thank you. Welcome
18 everyone. My main update would be the photo census
19 that Bill was talking about. They've got a digital
20 photo census this time. This is about the Fortymile
21 Herd, sorry. This is the first time they've gotten a
22 digital photo census since 2010. In 2010, the herd was
23 around 50,000. Now it's between 71,000 to 75,000 max.

24

25 Bill was talking about the calf
26 weights. In 2013-14 the calf weights were 125 pounds.
27 In 2017 they were 110 pounds. So there's some red
28 lights flashing about habitat over-grazing.

29

30 Move on to the wolf control of the
31 calving area. In the past probably 10 years the goal
32 was a 75 percent reduction of the wolves on the calving
33 grounds. They've maintained that pretty much. The
34 mortality on the calves is 34 percent grizzly bear and
35 33 percent wolves and they have 90 calves collared with
36 GPS collars. The calf survival rate is about 60
37 percent.

38

39 So in January we're going to have
40 another Fortymile Harvest Coalition meeting to set up
41 the new harvest management plan for 2018-2023. Some of
42 the things we're going to try to promote is herd
43 growth, increase the allowable harvest, provide a
44 reasonable opportunity for harvest for subsistence and
45 perhaps stabilize the herd.

46

47 The Canadians have a problem with that
48 because they want to see the caribou increase until
49 they're in their historic range. So that will be quite

50

1 an interesting discussion. One of the limiting
2 factors, of course, is the habitat.

3
4 Thank you.

5
6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Virgil.

7
8 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay. I want to speak
9 about the king salmon issue a little bit. We had way
10 more king salmon counted at the sonar at Pilot Station
11 than we've had in the last 10 or 12 years. However, I
12 only know of king salmon being weighed by two different
13 people who actually had an accurate scale. One was
14 Stan Zuray weighed larger fish that people brought to
15 him to weigh in the rapids and the largest king salmon
16 he weighted weighed 28 pounds. And then Dr. Bud Fate
17 he weighed some at their fish camp and that is about 35
18 miles downstream from the bridge on the Yukon and his
19 heaviest king salmon that he saw was just a little less
20 than 30 pounds.

21
22 So genetically -- and then another
23 thing I wanted to point out is the ASL, the age of the
24 king salmon, we have a lot more five-year-olds, not
25 near as many six-year-olds as we used to have, so it's
26 going to take a long time for the genetics to recover
27 from the large mesh gillnets that have been used for
28 years and the drift gillnetting that started in the
29 early '80s with large mesh gillnets targeting the large
30 fish and only the smaller fish actually reproducing,
31 passing on their genes.

32
33 And then another thing is that on the
34 United States side of the border we had actually low
35 escapement numbers in the places where we actually
36 count the king salmon, but into Canada it was higher
37 numbers, about 70,000 I believe, but anyway it doesn't
38 add up. If we really had that many king salmon cross
39 over, why didn't the river like up the Koyukuk where
40 Tanana Chiefs runs the weir and up the Gisasa where
41 Fish and Wildlife Service runs a weir and up the
42 Andreafsky River where Fish and Wildlife Service runs a
43 weir, why didn't those systems have more than the
44 average number of king salmon than they've had for the
45 last 15 years.

46
47 That's all I have, Madame Chair.

48
49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you.

50

1 For my report, as your Chair sometimes a couple things
2 might fall through the cracks. For our annual report
3 there was a mistake that we're going to have to look at
4 and fix. We were talking about a Park Service proposal
5 with the bears, the May season for wolves and coyotes.
6 I'm sure Katya has a hard time following us sometimes.
7 It said we were opposed to the one for collecting horns
8 and antlers. They're two different ones. So in that
9 report we're going to have to fix that. I have it
10 flagged here and we'll make sure we deal with that when
11 the time comes.

12
13 Andy, you forgot the hunter ed meeting
14 that you were so passionate about.

15
16 MR. BASSICH: I know we're going to
17 talk about it.

18
19 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. So
20 Andy and I attended a hunter education and hunter ethic
21 meeting in Fairbanks. It was a two-day meeting. So
22 we'll talk about that later.

23
24 I attended the SRC meeting in
25 Glennallen. Before the SRC meeting we had a caribou
26 meeting for all the caribou that go into the Park,
27 which is the Chisana, Mentasta and Nelchinas, and it
28 was the same day as the first day of the Fortymile
29 meeting in Tok. So I wasn't able to go to the Tok
30 meeting.

31
32 It's somewhat refreshing to me to see
33 the managers getting together and talking about certain
34 things to make management a lot better. So that was a
35 really encouraging meeting for me with the Park Service
36 because the Fish and Wildlife Service from Tetlin was
37 also there.

38
39 At the end of the SRC meeting we got a
40 report from Becky Schwanke, who used to be the area
41 biologist in Glennallen, about the wild sheep people
42 working on a disease that's transmitted nose to nose
43 with domestics and wild sheep. They actually had
44 people -- I think they say there's like two to three
45 hundred domestics in Alaska and 30,000 or more Dall
46 sheep, wild sheep.

47
48 There has become a concern that these
49 nose-to-nose things would happen in the Lower 48. When
50

1 it happens, the whole herd dies off and there's no cure
2 for it. So it's become a concern with the wild sheep
3 people. But Becky had reported to us at the SRC
4 meeting that 2 to 5 percent of the domestics in Alaska
5 they actually came forth and let them test their
6 animals to see if they had it. So 2 to 4 or 5 percent
7 they figure of the domestics in Alaska has it.

8
9 So they're working on it and they were
10 very pleased to see it was a low number. They actually
11 have to sneeze on the animals and be nose to nose for
12 this to transmit. So in the Lower 48 they have like
13 30,000 domestics running around it's just a skewed
14 number compared to here and they have complete herds
15 that died off. So it became a concern and it was just
16 good to hear that it was a low percentage here.

17
18 That is all I have to report.

19
20 Next would be our coordinator.

21
22 MS. WESSELS: For the record my name is
23 Katya Wessels and I'm Eastern Interior Coordinator. So
24 I just wanted to touch upon a few items. One is the
25 call for Council membership applications and
26 nominations. It is now open to anyone who is
27 interested and qualified to serve on the Regional
28 Advisory Council or if you know anyone who you would
29 like to nominate to serve on the Council, we have
30 applications available.

31
32 This is a very important subject to
33 this Council because currently we have only seven
34 seated members. We have three open seats. Those seats
35 should be filled out by the end of this year since
36 people applied last year. The whole application
37 process takes a year.

38
39 So when people apply the beginning of
40 the year, the applications get taken in, then the
41 applicants get interviewed, then a special panel
42 convenes that reviews the application and a report is
43 later compiled and sent to the Secretary of the
44 Interior and Secretary of Agriculture. The end of the
45 year the people are nominated for the open seats.

46
47 We don't know what's going to happen
48 next year, but this year, as you can see, we needed to
49 move our meeting from Tok to Fairbanks because we were

50

1 in danger of not getting a quorum in Tok. So it's very
2 important to have all the seats filled. And it's also
3 important for people in the communities to be able to
4 participate in this public process and serve on the
5 Council so they can relay the concerns of the people
6 from their communities.

7
8 On my part I try to do the best to
9 recruit people to apply at different meetings and
10 communities, but I hope the Council Members, because
11 you know people in your communities and your area,
12 you're very respected members of your communities, you
13 know how Council works, you know what the work entails.
14 If you know anyone, please ask them to apply or maybe
15 nominate someone if you know.

16
17 That is why also the other subject is
18 youth participation, why youth participation is so
19 important. When the youth comes to the meeting or
20 younger people they see how the Councils work, they
21 might get interested in the work and might become
22 potentially in the future new Council members. That is
23 why it's great that James Kelly and the youth that he
24 brought are here so they can see the work of the
25 Council and what the Council discusses, what subjects
26 are of importance.

27
28 I just also wanted to mention some sad
29 news. Probably a lot of you already know that, but I
30 just thought it was important to mention that two
31 Council Members, one from the YK Delta RAC, Greg
32 Roczicka, passed away. He was on the Council for 14
33 years. Another Council Member from Northwest Arctic
34 RAC, Raymond Stoney, also passed away and he served on
35 the Council for 24 years.

36
37 So let's have a moment of silence in
38 their memory.

39
40 (Moment of silence)

41
42 MS. WESSELS: Thank you. Also based on
43 the last meeting I just wanted to remind everyone about
44 the general rules of behavior. This is a public
45 meeting and it's being recorded, so we need to remember
46 to follow Robert's Rules of Order and refrain from
47 using any kind of colorful language that might offend
48 someone in the audience that is here or on the phone.
49 Also please remember to put your cell phones on vibrate

50

1 and if you need to answer your phone calls, please step
2 out of the room.

3
4 Thank you. That's all.

5
6 MR. BASSICH: Sue.

7
8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Andy.

9
10 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, I'm really glad you
11 brought up the membership on our Council. We've been
12 talking about this for years trying to get younger
13 people on. One of the thoughts I had I'd like to
14 explore with OSM is to see if a seat could be created
15 on the Council with a representative from UAF, schools
16 where they're training younger students in either
17 fisheries or wildlife biology. So I'm wondering if
18 there wouldn't be a possibility of basically creating a
19 seat that UAF could appoint a person who's involved in
20 and interested in fish and wildlife to sit as a Council
21 Member.

22
23 So it's just a thought I had because
24 it's really difficult to get young people on it. Their
25 lives are just beginning, they move on and so does
26 their seat. So it's maybe a way to get some
27 consistency and also engage youth or people that are
28 upcoming. So I just wanted to throw that out as
29 something to explore the possibility of.

30
31 We're allowed, what, 13?

32
33 MS. WESSELS: I think you will need to
34 change your charter to increase the membership to 13,
35 but you can vote on increasing your membership. Thank
36 you for your proposal, Andy. I'm going to run it by
37 the authorities at OSM and see what we can do and I
38 will let the Council know.

39
40 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, or any
41 system to get young people in. The suggestion was UAF,
42 but anything that anybody comes up with that might
43 work.

44
45 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, I think the
46 important thing is if you have an established
47 organization, whether it be through the university or
48 some other TCC or some other organization that has an
49 established program training youth in various areas, if
50

1 the seat was dedicated to that entity to then appoint,
2 and I'm sure it has to go through OSM and everything
3 too, but there might be some way to work around that to
4 get the consistency. That's the important thing. Even
5 if it's not the same person, it's a seat that's filled
6 by youth or people that are engaged in fisheries and
7 wildlife in Alaska or at least showing interest in it.

8
9 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Uh-huh. It
10 would be good to check that out and see if we can make
11 it happen. Okay. Anything else.

12
13 Bill.

14
15 MR. GLANZ: I've had a lot of the young
16 people get involved with us in our AC, but the minute
17 we have meetings and it's going to go more than one
18 day, they won't go. Just like this meeting here. If
19 you're a young man with a family working, you come here
20 you lose four days of pay. I mean that's what really
21 stymies the recruitment in my areas. I can't get
22 anybody in Circle to run. I can't get anybody in our
23 area to run. Well, I did get one guy in Circle to run.
24 We'll see what happens on that deal. But I mean it's
25 just hard to recruit.

26
27 That's all, Madame Chair.

28
29 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, I think
30 another problem we run into is there's so many meetings
31 now. What did you tell me earlier?

32
33 MR. GLANZ: One of my old bosses at the
34 BLM, I didn't know what he did, so I said what do you
35 do for the BLM. He says I meet.

36
37 (Laughter)

38
39 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah. It
40 does kind of -- the travel in Alaska too it makes it
41 even more difficult for people to get around and go to
42 all the meetings.

43
44 Anyone else.

45
46 (No comments)

47
48 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Next
49 on the agenda is service awards. Did you have a plan

50

1 for this?

2

3 MS. WESSELS: Yes, we have a plan.
4 Orville Lind is going to present service awards.
5 Orville is our leadership team lead for this meeting.

6

7 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Welcome,
8 Orville.

9

10 MR. LIND: Quyana. Thank you, Madame
11 Chair. Council Members. It's a pleasure to be here.
12 I just wanted to give a quick background of my
13 government employment. I was hired with the Fish and
14 Wildlife Service back in 1991 as a Refuge Information
15 Technician. I was an RIT for about four years and then
16 headed up to King Salmon, Alaska Peninsula National
17 Wildlife Refuge as a ranger and became a research
18 vessel captain for about three and a half years.

19

20 December 20th will mark my three years
21 as a Native Liaison for the Office of Subsistence
22 Management. During that time of service I spent since
23 1993 on a nominations panel for the Bristol Bay Region.
24 It is a very important role that RAC members play for
25 the resources that we depend on. It is important to
26 have very outspoken subsistence users, commercial
27 users, to find some balance out there, especially when
28 we're dealing with commercial users, sport users,
29 subsistence users. A lot of changes out there.
30 Climate change, migration changes. So my hat is off to
31 each and every one of you.

32

33 We want to acknowledge a couple members
34 here. Madame Chair, if I understood earlier, Mr.
35 Firmin will be here tomorrow?

36

37 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes.

38

39 MR. LIND: Okay. I would like to
40 postpone his award until tomorrow. Thank you. I would
41 like to start off with Mr. Lester Erhart. He has 10
42 years. He was born and raised in Tanana and has been a
43 hunter, trapper and subsistence and commercial
44 fisherman most of his life. Mr. Erhart is considered
45 one of the most knowledgeable members of the community
46 and knows the region like the back of his hand. He is
47 a respected leader and communicator who has shared his
48 knowledge and understanding in many ways. In addition
49 to serving on this Council he has served as the second

50

1 chief of Denakkanaaga, Incorporated -- forgive me if
2 I've said that wrong -- on the city of Tanana and
3 Tanana Native Councils and Denali National Park Service
4 Resource Commission in the Yukon River Drainage
5 Fisheries Association.

6
7 Folks, if you'd join me in recognizing
8 Mr. Erhart's 10 years of service on this Council and
9 his tireless efforts on behalf of the subsistence users
10 in this region.

11
12 We present you with this plaque, sir.

13
14 (Applause)

15
16 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Speech.

17
18 (Laughter)

19
20 MR. LIND: You know, as we look at the
21 time put in as volunteers on these panels it takes a
22 lot and we really appreciate your commitment.

23
24 The next person we have to recognize is
25 Mr. Andy Bassich. Andy has lived in the region and
26 maintained a subsistence lifestyle for several decades.
27 Living apart from the main community of Eagle, Mr.
28 Bassich depends on subsistence resources for his
29 lifestyle on the Yukon River. His travels in search of
30 subsistence resources take him different parts of the
31 region, from the Yukon Charley National Preserve to the
32 Bureau of Land Management, Taylor Highway, Wild and
33 Scenic Corridor in winter months to hunt caribou.

34
35 His wide variety of roles in several
36 councils over the period of the last 15 years extended
37 his travels across the region and allowed him to
38 interact with a variety of other subsistence users and
39 understand their issues. Mr. Bassich's work on these
40 councils allows him to learn from many others
41 throughout the region and an advocate for the
42 subsistence users from his area.

43
44 Besides this Council he has served for
45 20 years as a chair of Eagle Advisory Committee and as
46 a vice chair he also serves on the Yukon River Panel,
47 the North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission and the
48 Fortymile Herd Harvest Coalition. He also spearheads
49 the Council's effort to address growing user conflicts

50

1 in the Eastern Interior Region.

2

3 Again, it's my pleasure to recognize
4 Mr. Bassich's efforts, his 15 years of service on the
5 Council and a subherb and articulate supporter of
6 subsistence users in this region.

7

8 Would you please join me in presenting
9 this award.

10

11 (Applause)

12

13 MR. BASSICH: I'm going to say
14 something.

15

16 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

17

18 There's a speech coming.

19

20 MR. BASSICH: You know that I don't
21 ever keep my mouth shut for very long. I guess the
22 first thing I want to say is -- I've said this also
23 with the Yukon Panel, which I've been involved in a
24 long time -- one of the things that I think about these
25 advisory committees and these organizations is that
26 after about five or six years you begin to see the same
27 faces over and over again and it's almost like you're
28 going to a family reunion when you come to these
29 meetings. I see many of the same faces that I saw when
30 I first started this and that's always a nice thing to
31 come here.

32

33 The second thing I want to acknowledge
34 is just the knowledge that I gain from the people
35 around the table here. Virgil and Sue and Lester, Bill,
36 Don. Everyone here has 30-plus years of living with
37 the resources in various ways. So I think one of the
38 really interesting things about this is gaining and
39 hearing the different perspectives from everyone on the
40 Council here and then being able to hopefully -- this
41 Council is sometimes a little bit diverse with each
42 other but we always come up with good plans of actions
43 and I think we represent all the different user groups
44 while here. So I really value what I hear from the
45 experiences of the other Council Members.

46

47 I did want to add one more thing. One
48 of the things that's really tough about being on any of
49 these is that it takes a long time to get things done.

50

1 Sometimes when you get young people coming in they
2 think they're going to come in and they're going to
3 change the world in one or two years and I think that's
4 the hardest lesson for anybody that gets involved in
5 any of these fish or wildlife issues in the state of
6 Alaska and that is you have to be very patient.

7
8 I oftentimes leave these meetings and I
9 go home and sometimes I scratch my head, like why the
10 heck am I still doing this, and then I sit down and I
11 reflect about what it was like 10 or 15 years ago and
12 what we've accomplished through management, through
13 changes in regulations and that kind of reinvigorates
14 me to realize that we do make changes. It's just slow
15 and you've got to be patient.

16
17 Thank you. Appreciate it. I enjoy
18 coming to the Eastern RAC meeting a lot and I really
19 enjoy the Federal program. No knock on the State, but
20 I really enjoy the Federal program because it's a
21 program that I feel is designed to really protect
22 people that live the way that I live in a remote place
23 that rely very closely to the resource. Without the
24 Federal program, I'm not sure where we'd be with that
25 right now. So I do appreciate this effort by OSM and
26 the Federal government to protect true subsistence use
27 of wildlife and fish in the state of Alaska because
28 we're a dying breed.

29
30 Thank you.

31
32 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thanks, Andy.

33
34 MR. LIND: Thank you, Madame Chair.
35 Thank you, Council Members. That ends my presentation.

36
37 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you,
38 Orville. Okay. I just want to remind people that have
39 come in that didn't introduce yourselves earlier please
40 sign in on the sign-in sheet.

41
42 Next on the agenda, public and tribal
43 comments on non-agenda items. Do we have anyone online
44 or in the room that has any public comments on non-
45 agenda items. Go ahead.

46
47 MS. WESSELS: This is Katya Wessels. I
48 have a public comment that was emailed to me. It's a
49 non-agenda item. So that person, her name is Teresa

50

1 Balboni, she said that she was going to come to the
2 Eastern Interior RAC in Tok, but she's not able to come
3 to Fairbanks. So I intend to read her comment that she
4 emailed to me if you allow that.

5
6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Sure.

7
8 MS. WESSELS: So just remember these
9 are not my words, but that's what she said to me.
10 Thank you all so much for the current State only 100-
11 foot off the road closure. The closure ought to be for
12 both type hunts. The Federal subsistence as well as
13 the State. Shooting a moose from a moving vehicle is
14 never fair chase. It's for hunting. That is slaughter
15 plain and simple. Stop it by making the regulation for
16 both Federal subsistence and State hunting.

17
18 Here is why. Space is so confined that
19 animals have no other path to move or migrate safely
20 but on the road. This Canyon Road narrowly follows the
21 O'Brien Creek to the Fortymile River and the animal
22 will travel the easier path by waling on the wide road,
23 completely susceptible to the waiting vehicles, drivers
24 move in and the passenger seat person is rifle ready to
25 blow its brains out.

26
27 Usually there is the backseat hunters
28 also. That's one moose or caribou to three hunters. I
29 have actually seen pickups that stop and outflow the
30 men in camo with rifles and with arms from the doors
31 and the camper shell both.

32
33 Another tactic used by a local I
34 witnessed firsthand was the killing of game birds by
35 his speeding vehicle. Not too safe. More moose are
36 killed right on the old State camp area Mile 113. It is
37 wide open there. Normally this area is a safe haven
38 for the moose all winter, spring and summer long. They
39 take this route to avoid predation from wolves. Known
40 wolves are less likely to come close to human
41 habitation. That is a friend safe zone.

42
43 Place some antler regulation on the
44 moose hunt instead of any bull moose. That is why
45 everyone comes up here from as far away as Southeast to
46 hunt moose during the State open moose season.

47
48 Make game cameras illegal. How can
49 using these consider fair chase? If someone baits
50

1 bears and has a camera up and are too damn lazy to
2 check the traps on their own without the game camera.
3 Really? We're humans. Support these.

4
5 Request more bothersome and steadfast
6 law enforcement for this corridor during the entire
7 hunting season. If ADF&G is raising the quota on
8 caribou next year, there needs to be money to have AST
9 and BLM rangers here. These officers ought to move
10 wholly enforce the land ethic during the times when
11 this country is under it's most heavily populated
12 season.

13
14 Note where campers are camped. Let the
15 people know LE has seen them. Talk to them. Ask where
16 they're disposing of human waste and their trash. Ask
17 them to remove all the flagging and other
18 identifications they're placing on the vegetation
19 indicating their whereabouts to their friends when
20 they're no longer needed.

21
22 Ask where they're wood cutting as if
23 it's unnoticeable. Ask them not to ring trees for the
24 next season's fire pit. Ask them to not make new
25 trails on virgin tundra with their ATVs.

26
27 There was one other email she sent, so
28 let's see.

29
30 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: The same
31 person?

32
33 MS. WESSELS: Yes. Sorry it's so long.
34 As a resident on private property adjoining BLM land
35 here in Fortymile county I must speak up on some issues
36 and ask you all to do your job to preserve the special
37 qualities of the land here. There are too many demands
38 put on this land during the 50 days of hunting season.

39
40
41 We didn't save Alaska so that trails
42 could be cut through virgin tundra by fresh users of
43 ATVs hoping to have their own bid on wilderness
44 experience, who inadvertently expose the permafrost
45 causing melting and an eventual stream of water falls
46 onto the highway at Mile 117. The next hunter, curious
47 where this trail goes, cuts off the road and makes the
48 trail more inviting for the next ATV user out here
49 hunting on the road and so it goes. Another off-the-

50

1 road trail through tundra.

2

3 Unless you get here before the State
4 hunt opens one will have a hard time finding any empty
5 pullout or gravel pit not already overtaken by RVs or
6 other vehicles. All the trailheads or off-the-road
7 trails such as Mile 103 there must be about 50 vehicles
8 when the caribou are here descending the country on
9 four-wheelers.

10

11 I'm speaking as far south only from the
12 Y to Mile 96, Jack Wade and Chicken are not areas I
13 will speak about here. We all love this country for
14 its wilderness and at the rate of increasing hunters
15 each fall this wilderness will most definitely
16 deteriorate. Unless people have to pay for their
17 violations we will never see positive change for the
18 land. We will need more law enforcement to keep our
19 land value wild-looking. Before we raise any quota on
20 caribou, please make sure you will be able to have the
21 Federal and State law enforcement rangers here. Make
22 it go hand in hand. Raise quotas, raise coverage.

23

24 Thank you.

25

26 Teresa Balboni.

27

28 That's it.

29

30 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you.
31 She must live on the Taylor.

32

33 Andy.

34

35 MR. BASSICH: Just to kind of let
36 people know. They have a piece of property right where
37 the Fortymile Bridge is along the Taylor Highway. They
38 were gold miners originally. He became a DOT worker,
39 retired from that, but they've been living there long
40 before I ever came into the region. They're seeing the
41 increasing issues revolving around the caribou
42 migration there. So they're very passionate as you can
43 tell about trying to get some ethical hunting going on.
44 It's dangerous around their place.

45

46 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh, yeah. I
47 understand.

48

49 MR. BASSICH: For people that aren't

50

1 familiar with that part of the highway it's basically
2 down -- the road system is down in a fairly narrow
3 valley for many miles in that stretch, so you can't get
4 off the highway really to hunt or do anything and
5 that's why there's such an issue with road hunting in
6 that area. There was some regulation put in to restrict
7 hunting from the road last year. That was in response
8 to some of their concerns, I think.

9

10 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Right. Yeah,
11 like my husband told me, when caribou and hunters get
12 on the road together it's a nightmare. I've witnessed
13 a lot of it myself. Yes, I understand.

14

15 Bruce, I have your card, so I think
16 we're going to get to it, okay. I have your deal here.
17 Okay. Moving on to old business. Hunter education
18 update.

19

20 MS. WESSELS: Can we have a five-minute
21 break so we can hook the computer with the
22 presentation.

23

24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: You betcha.
25 We'll take a five-minute break here.

26

27 (Off record)

28

29 (On record)

30

31 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Everybody
32 take your seats.

33

34 MS. WESSELS: Everybody take your
35 seats.

36

37 MS. LINNELL: Madame Chair.

38

39 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, go
40 ahead.

41

42 MS. LINNELL: This is Karen Linnell
43 with the Ahtna Intertribal Resource Commission. I just
44 wanted to let you know I was online.

45

46 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right.
47 Welcome, Karen. Thanks for joining us.

48

49 MS. WESSELS: Thank you, everyone,

50

1 again. For the record, my name is Katya Wessels,
2 Eastern Interior RAC coordinator with OSM. I'm going
3 to give a short update on the hunter ethics education
4 program that we're developing for the Eastern Interior.

5
6 So what is the issue at stake. That's
7 understanding and tolerance for different cultural
8 hunting values as a means to reduce waste and work
9 towards better hunter ethics in the field. The Office
10 of Subsistence Management was tasked by the Eastern
11 Interior to develop an education outreach strategy for
12 a pilot program with goals to reduce user conflict
13 between user groups, promote understanding and
14 tolerance for different cultural and hunting values and
15 encounter respect in the field.

16
17 In your books you can find their report
18 that was presented to the Board. I just want to very
19 quickly give you the background why Eastern Interior is
20 so passionate about hunter ethics education. Starting
21 in 2009 the Council became increasingly concerned
22 regarding user conflict and wanton waste and voiced
23 their desire that there's a need to have a hunter
24 ethics education program. The Council wanted to move
25 forward in a positive inclusive way to include all the
26 users. The Council also wanted OSM, U.S. Fish and
27 Wildlife to work collaboratively with the State of
28 Alaska to develop this education strategy.

29
30 During the last meeting that happened
31 in winter of 2017 in February there was a lengthy
32 discussion about ethics and education. Then there was
33 a little break-out meeting between OSM, our
34 representative from the State of Alaska and the Council
35 representatives. We talked about what we can do, what
36 avenues we can take. Because the Council felt so
37 serious about this subject the Council voted to adopt
38 hunter ethics education as a regular agenda item.
39 That's why we have it on our agenda.

40
41 So after the February meeting of the
42 Council OSM developed and presented a draft action
43 plan, which you see in your meeting books, and a
44 timeline for development of the outreach strategy and
45 pilot projects and these were presented to the Board.
46 The Board listened. We discussed all the background.
47 We said all the times this topic was in the Council
48 annual report, how many times it was discussed during
49 the meeting and what the Council would like to do.

50

1 The Board basically approved the plan
2 and timeline and directed OSM to proceed with a plan.
3 So the general Board directive. Those are the words
4 from one of the annual report replies, the Board fully
5 supports this effort and looks forward to a successful
6 program. So we have the backing of the Board.

7
8 Then what did we need in order to
9 proceed. Of course we needed funding. An opportunity
10 came. There was a call for grant applications from
11 U.S. Fish and Wildlife internal program which is called
12 Connecting People With Nature. That program focuses on
13 engaging people of any age in outdoor recreations.
14 Examples are hunting, fishing, wildlife/fish viewing.
15 So it was kind of down our alley. It also was focusing
16 on providing learning opportunities for people.

17
18 So in the spring of this year the theme
19 for the call for the proposals was breaking new ground
20 with State and tribal partnerships and that's what we
21 want for this project. We want to have partnerships
22 with State and tribal organizations. So OSM submitted
23 a proposal that was titled Building Partnerships to
24 Understanding and Trust, Bridging the Cultural Gap by
25 Promoting Responsible and Ethical Hunting Practices.

26
27 We submitted the proposal at the end of
28 the spring in May. That's when they were due. We
29 didn't know for the longest time if we will get funded
30 or not. So then in August we got a notice that our
31 proposal got funded. But there was a caveat. We had
32 to spend the money before the end of fiscal year.

33
34 We scrambled to put a meeting together
35 before the end of fiscal year. So the meeting of
36 hunter ethics education brainstorming workshop took
37 place in Fairbanks at the Morris Thompson Cultural
38 Center on September 28th and 29th. It had a great
39 turnout from the representatives of the stakeholders.
40 The Eastern Interior RAC members, two members were
41 present; Sue Entsminger and Andy Bassich. OSM had two
42 representatives. There were several representatives
43 from BLM, NPS, U.S. Fish and Wildlife, U.S. Air Force,
44 State of Alaska, TCC and UAF.

45
46 People were really eager to talk about
47 this issue because it's very, very important to many
48 people who work in this region and they know quite a
49 bit about what had happened. This is just one of the
50

1 photos from the meeting. You see the people who were
2 present during that workshop.

3
4 So what were the workshop objectives.
5 The objective was to initiate an open dialogue and
6 exchange of ideas between the Federal land management
7 agencies, State of Alaska, Council Members and user
8 groups. So the discussions were very lively and very
9 informal.

10
11 The second objective was identifying
12 existing user conflict problems. Then collectively
13 contribute to the development of ethics, education and
14 outreach strategy. Jointly develop ideas for a pilot
15 project that can be implemented in 2019 and will test
16 this strategy. Of course, you know, all the further
17 steps are funding dependent and we will need to seek
18 further approval of the Board. As you see, the
19 conversations were very lively and people were happy to
20 participate.

21
22 So during the discussions the following
23 issues and emergent trends were determined. The
24 importance of respect, mutual understanding, modes of
25 access to hunting locations may influence behavior.
26 Domino effect of shifting access. I'm not going to
27 read the rest of them. You can read them on the screen
28 yourself.

29
30 But we are in the process right now of
31 preparing a report from this workshop. The Council
32 Members have a draft copy of the
33 report. It's in your supplemental materials. It's a
34 pretty lengthy report, it's 50 pages, but I really
35 encourage you to look at it. If you have any ideas or
36 suggestions that we can include in that report before
37 we finalize it, I would like you to do that.

38
39 Also, anyone who was present at the
40 workshop who did not have a chance to provide me their
41 comments, they can do so after this meeting and we will
42 include them. This is just another photo from the
43 workshop and there were more issues and emerging trends
44 identified that you can see here. All of them are
45 outlined in the report and all the main points made by
46 the workshop participants are included.

47
48 So then we also had breakout discussion
49 on these topics, the factors contributing to hunter
50

1 conflict. The types of audiences for hunter ethic
2 education, what best media and strategies we can
3 employ, best educational practices that can be applied
4 to the development of the ethics education strategy and
5 the key information gaps that exist.

6
7 So then we broke into three groups and
8 the three groups develop three project concepts. I
9 don't know if anyone from the group that developed
10 Project 1 concept is here. Were you on this one? Do
11 you want to talk about it, maybe just a few words?

12
13 MS. KENNER: I would have to review.

14
15 MS. WESSELS: All right. Well, it's a
16 voluntary proposition. The first project concept is
17 kind of a global. It actually aims at the whole state,
18 though we're right now working with the Eastern
19 Interior Region and trying to develop the strategy for
20 Eastern Interior Region and a project for Eastern
21 Interior Region. We're hoping if this strategy will be
22 successful in this region, it can be extended to the
23 whole state of Alaska. Therefore this particular group
24 who developed this project concept we're already
25 looking at the whole state.

26
27 Yes, Andy.

28
29 MR. BASSICH: Maybe the most important
30 thing from what I remember of this was -- you can go
31 back to that slide.

32
33 MS. WESSELS: Yes, I will. I just by
34 accident pressed out.

35
36 MR. BASSICH: There we go. The very
37 last thing where it says shared values. A lot of this
38 particular project was based on identifying what all
39 hunters have in common, building on all the concepts,
40 the methodologies, why people get out and hunt and
41 building -- trying to work strongly to use that as the
42 core bond to bring all these different user groups
43 together.

44
45 That was the main focus of this project
46 and it was more of a broad reaching throughout the
47 entire state, whereas I think you'll see some of the
48 other ones where -- and this is kind of a really -- it
49 was determined this would take a lot of money to do

50

1 this, to spread this over the entire state. So this
2 was one of the biggest of the projects that was kind of
3 developed in a sub-group committee format.

4
5 MS. WESSELS: In the report we say
6 about this concept. This is a statewide hunter
7 education campaign implemented via our collective
8 action public/private/community partnership to unify
9 Alaskan hunters around shared values.

10
11 There was a second project concept and
12 it involved a local community liaison program. It's a
13 target hunter outreach program. I would like to ask
14 Nathan to talk about that a little bit because he was
15 one of the key people on that group.

16
17 MR. HAWKALUK: Thank you, Madame Chair.
18 Members of the Council. I'm Nathan Hawkaluk. I'm the
19 Acting Refuge Manager at the Yukon Flats National
20 Wildlife Refuge.

21
22 Much of the information that we talked
23 about is up there. As suggested, it's a pilot project.
24 If it works, I guess the model could be applied
25 elsewhere across the region and even across the state
26 if it seems like a viable alternative. The idea is to
27 bring together stakeholders mostly around the Fort
28 Yukon area as that is kind of a bottleneck for hunters
29 moving into the eastern part of the state to hunt
30 mostly up on the Arctic Refuge, but some perhaps on the
31 Yukon Flats.

32
33 Focused on the airport area as most air
34 taxi operators funnel through there. Again, it's to
35 develop a community message and focus on those hunters
36 moving through and kind of just opening a dialogue
37 between the two groups.

38
39 That's it kind of in a nutshell. We've
40 started to work with the Council of Athabaskan Tribal
41 Governments. James Kelly was here representing them.
42 We've talked conceptually as to how we might move
43 forward with this pilot project. We're kind of working
44 on a draft scope of work to move forward. Some funding
45 would be nice to include to get this off the ground,
46 but it's such a low cost right now that we can kind of
47 move forward without some additional funding and we're
48 having those discussions now.

49
50

1 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, just to build on
2 that a little bit too I think from my perspective one
3 of the things that was really important about this
4 particular project is that it involved community
5 members actually meeting and talking with hunters
6 coming into the area, so you get that direct contact
7 between those that are locals and those that are coming
8 in from other areas in the state and that's a big part
9 of this task, is how do you communicate between rural
10 and urban people.

11
12 They think differently, they have
13 different values and the only way to really get that
14 across a lot of times it's most effective if it's just
15 one on one. To me that was one of the most important
16 things about this project as it's local community
17 stewardship based and one-on-one contact with people,
18 which is a really effective way to begin getting
19 messaging out.

20
21 MR. HAWKALUK: Thank you. Thanks for
22 that addition. One thing I'd like to add also is that
23 we recognize the importance of the air taxi operators
24 to the success of this project, so I've reached out to
25 one that operates out of Fort Yukon and he conceptually
26 was on board with assisting with the project as it's
27 proposed.

28
29 MS. WESSELS: Thank you, Nathan. So
30 that was the concept for the second potential pilot
31 project. The third project concept it was titled,
32 Don't Be That Hunter. It was a campaign to establish
33 proper hunting ethics within a target group. I would
34 like to ask Andy Bassich to talk a little bit more
35 about that because he was an instrumental person in the
36 development of this.

37
38 MR. BASSICH: Okay. So one of the
39 things that was identified overall in the group is that
40 oftentimes some of these things might be a real issue
41 to somebody but not very real to another person. So
42 your perception when you go out into the woods, is it a
43 problem or is it not a problem, was identified as being
44 real. In both cases it's real.

45
46 There's a lot of talk especially in the
47 Fairbanks area here where you have two military bases
48 and new military personnel coming up and wanting to
49 have their Alaskan experience of going out and hunting
50

1 and not really having much experience or maybe not a
2 lot of training on what it means to go out and hunt in
3 Alaska. Not having probably any contact with some of
4 their more rural communities or the different cultures
5 that are out in those communities.

6
7 So it was identified that there needs
8 to be an outreach effort aimed at military personnel
9 coming into the state in particular because we're in
10 the Eastern Interior here, the Air Force Base and the
11 Army Base.

12
13 So this project here is basically
14 dependent upon working with the commander of the base,
15 getting permission to come in, having him set up a time
16 and a place where an outreach program that would
17 incorporate all the different agencies. So BLM would
18 have a representative there, State of Alaska, so on and
19 so forth, National Park Service.

20
21 Everyone would have a representative
22 there to talk about their issue just to kind of give an
23 overall view of what's going on in the state if you
24 come onto their lands to hunt and fish. What are the
25 rules, what are the regulations, how to conduct
26 yourself.

27
28 The idea behind this is it could
29 probably be implemented fairly inexpensively. It's not
30 going to cost a lot. It was also identified to try and
31 get some funding from outside sources. Outside the
32 state of Alaska.

33
34 We all know State and Federal funds are
35 drying up, so why not begin to reach out to some of
36 these entities that supply hunting gear, four-wheelers,
37 snowmachines, boats. All these places that are making
38 money from Alaska hunters coming to buy gear. They
39 should be kicking in a little bit to help support the
40 effort to educate and address the issue of hunter
41 conflict.

42
43 So a big part of this is just getting
44 the message out. We found out at this meeting that the
45 State of Alaska actually has quite a bit of material
46 for education and outreach already developed, so we
47 don't have to invent the wheel here. We just need to
48 begin to coordinate all the different efforts are there
49 and then begin to build on the messaging.

50

1 One thing great about going to the
2 military bases is it's a captive audience. If the
3 commander says you show up at this time and you must go
4 to this training, it's a done deal. So it might be a
5 really great way to test some of our strategies, see
6 how things work. It can be very focused and fairly
7 cost effective and probably be initiated in a
8 relatively short timeframe just like the previous
9 objective or program. It could be implemented fairly
10 quickly with a little bit of organizing.

11
12 So I guess to summarize it basically
13 was recognized that the military personnel that hunt
14 in the state potentially are a problem. We don't know
15 if that's true or not, but in the view of some people
16 it is, so it needs to be addressed.

17
18 We also recognize that 99 percent of
19 the people that go out in the field don't want to do
20 something bad. Oftentimes they just don't know better.
21 They just weren't taught. We have a large population
22 of people, young people that were never taught by
23 grandfathers, fathers on how do you hunt. We have a
24 whole group of people now in the state of Alaska and
25 throughout the entire United States that they buy a
26 gun, they want to go hunt and nobody has ever taught
27 them anything.

28
29 So the idea is let's get them some
30 background information. Let's give them some basic
31 training and respecting other people, respecting the
32 lands that you're on, respecting the cultures that
33 you're in and just try and do a good job when you get
34 an animal down to get the most out of it. Very basic
35 things that are non-controversial, but I think everyone
36 wants to know. Oftentimes people don't know but
37 they're afraid to ask because they don't want to look
38 like they don't know.

39
40 So by developing some of these
41 programs, getting that information out to people, I
42 think even people that have been hunting for many years
43 can learn new techniques from other people.

44
45 Thank you.

46
47 MS. WESSELS: Thank you very much,
48 Andy. So just as Andy said there's a lot of
49 information out there that has already been developed.

50

1 Unfortunately sometimes people don't know where it is
2 and it's not very clear where to find it or they have
3 other technical difficulties.

4
5 Like I just was at the AFN and I found
6 out about one very interesting program. It's put
7 together by the Alaska Native Medical Center.
8 Apparently they have a program that have Native menu
9 for the inpatients and they accept donations from
10 anyone who is willing to donate any type of Native
11 foods. They pay for the shipping and they will store
12 the food in their freezers.

13
14 I don't know many details about it, but
15 this is just one of the new interesting piece of
16 information that I found. I talked to a few people
17 about it and they never heard about it. We need to
18 find avenues to distribute this kind of information
19 because I think it will be very helpful.

20
21 So what do we do next. I mean we had
22 our workshop and we're working on the report. How are
23 we planning on proceeding. So between this meeting and
24 upon the Council's blessing, we will finalize the
25 report and we will work on developing the outreach
26 strategy and refining the pilot project concept before
27 the next meeting in February.

28
29 If funding allows, we're hoping to have
30 another brainstorming meeting right before the Eastern
31 Interior Council meeting in February or whichever date
32 you determine it will be held. In the meantime we'll
33 also reach out to other potential partners and
34 stakeholders. Here on the slide you see some that we
35 outlined. So we will look for the additional funding
36 of costs.

37
38 After the next meeting, upon the
39 strategy approval, we will finalize it after this
40 meeting and then we will present it to the board maybe
41 at the meeting in April, but I don't know if it will be
42 ready by then or not. If it's not ready for their next
43 meeting, then it will be the next one after that. Then
44 it will be time to select which pilot project we're
45 going to test. We're hoping that in 2019 we will be
46 able to test the pilot project.

47
48 That's all I would like to report to
49 you today. If you have any questions, comments,
50

1 suggestions, I would like to welcome that at this time.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Are you going
4 to keep this on?

5

6 MS. WESSELS: I can.

7

8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I would
9 prefer not being blinded.

10

11 MS. WESSELS: I can turn it off.

12

13 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Then
14 we can go into that.

15

16 MR. WOODRUFF: I have one question.

17

18 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Donald.

19

20 MR. WOODRUFF: Thank you. I'm
21 wondering how you're going to reach out to the
22 nonresident hunters from the states, Lower 48? Thank
23 you.

24

25 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, I think this is in
26 a conceptual form, but it would seem to me that most of
27 the non-State qualified hunters would be working -- a
28 lot of them through hunting guides or air taxis to get
29 them from one place to another, so that's one place.
30 You saw a long list of partnerships, so addressing the
31 air taxis and the guiding operations is going to be
32 pretty crucial for them to be involved.

33

34 As far as people that drive up to hunt,
35 I think that's an issue, but I think that's something
36 just through media campaigns, trying to get the
37 information out there, that's about all you can really
38 do. When they contact Fish and Game, they can get
39 information from Fish and Game on.....

40

41 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Right.

42

43 MR. BASSICH:when they get their
44 hunt permits and that sort of thing.

45

46 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: But there's
47 also national organizations like SCI and Wild Sheep and
48 all these other organizations that they could reach out
49 to and they have a strong membership. I think just

50

1 being with the State and working with the State there
2 might be a requirement for people to have a hunter ed
3 more than there is today.

4
5 MR. WOODRUFF: I notice in one of the
6 Board of Game proposals they're asking to do away with
7 the youth hunter education and that's just so many
8 steps backwards. It just seems odd.

9
10 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I have to
11 agree with you, yeah.

12
13 Katya.

14
15 MS. WESSELS: Thank you, Madame Chair.
16 Katya Wessels. I just wanted to clarify. We, as the
17 Office of Subsistence Management, we cannot establish
18 any mandatory hunter ethics education program. We're
19 just planning to work through collaboration with other
20 agencies and entities. Whatever we develop will be
21 strictly voluntary.

22
23 If State of Alaska decides on their own
24 to change any of their requirements, it will be
25 completely up to them. We're just trying to keep
26 people informed, provide information and whatever pilot
27 project we're choosing it's going to be a volunteer
28 participation base.

29
30 Thank you.

31
32 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Vince, I see
33 you waving your hand quite a bit.

34
35 MR. MATHEWS: Well, real quickly. The
36 Yukon Flats Refuge with the Back Country hunters and
37 fishers have reached out and we were guests at one of
38 their newcomer briefings at Fort Wainwright and that
39 group is pursuing paying for a booth at the newcomer
40 meeting. So that's something, whoever is the chair of
41 the subgroup.

42
43 The other reason is I'm getting a lot
44 of messages that people are not able to call in, so I
45 think it would be a good time to find out who is
46 online. They're getting messages that all lines are
47 busy or something to that effect. So maybe good to see
48 who's online. I've been encouraging them to keep
49 calling back, but I'm not sure they're getting through.

50

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Who's going
2 to handle that? Anyone online right now?

3
4 MS. OWEN: This is Pat Owen at Denali
5 National Park. I'm still on.

6
7 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Are you
8 having problems?

9
10 MS. OWEN: Not at all, but I did not
11 hang up when we took the break before.

12
13 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Anyone
14 else online?

15
16 MR. ROBBINS: Yeah, Frank Robbins with
17 Fish and Game.

18
19 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Did you have
20 any trouble?

21
22 MR. ROBBINS: No, not at all.

23
24 MS. LINNELL: Karen Linnell.

25
26 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. It's Arctic
27 Village contacting me about they're not able to get
28 through, so I'm hoping they're online now. Otherwise
29 I'll call them back and see -- I'll call them directly
30 to find out what the problem is.

31
32 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Arctic
33 Village, are you on?

34
35 MR. MATHEWS: Okay.

36
37 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. We
38 need to take care of that during lunch. Any more
39 discussion.

40
41 Virgil.

42
43 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay. The Fairbanks AC
44 is going to meet tonight and we will get -- we get this
45 every year about this time of year from Fort
46 Wainwright. They have a coordinator out there for all
47 the hunter education and the hunting. Very cooperative
48 as far as trying to not interfere with the hunting
49 seasons and their training activities. Anyway, we're

50

1 going to get a briefing on that at the Fairbanks AC
2 tonight.

3
4 I noticed that they weren't involved in
5 this meeting that took place or it didn't say they
6 were. It said Eielson was, but not Fort Wainwright.
7 Anyway, I just wanted to point that out. Like Andy or
8 someone said a while ago, they make their own rules and
9 regulations on their lands.

10
11 But as far as for years the Air Force,
12 especially with these visiting pilots, because they
13 have this red flag training they call it about three
14 times a year or so and they bring pilots from all over
15 the world, all allied nations, to us to do training
16 because this is the largest training area that the
17 military has for both troops on the ground and for
18 flying. For practicing their bomb runs and all that
19 kind of stuff.

20
21 They've really got me concerned and
22 exasperated at times. My son and I both have videoed
23 aircraft jets buzzing sheep and flying underneath us
24 even when I know what the rules are. They're violating
25 their own rules. It's because they're a bunch of young
26 guys full of testosterone and they're out there having
27 fun and they're practicing what they've been trained to
28 do.

29
30 So they don't realize that when they
31 fly over sheep real close and especially in the spring
32 time after they've lambled and the ewes take the lambs
33 up in the cliffs to get away from the wolves, that that
34 jet fighter flying by them a couple hundred feet away
35 maybe, they're just going to super-startle them and no
36 telling how many fall off a cliff and no study has ever
37 been done on that.

38
39 I've been out spring bear hunting in
40 May when the sheep are calving, the caribou are
41 calving, the moose are calving, they're all calving.
42 I've had those planes fly over me. They come up from
43 behind you and like an 810 especially, but they don't
44 have those here anymore, but we've got F-15s, S-16s.
45 We're going to have the F-35s, F-22s. I mean these
46 things are super noisy when they fly right over your
47 head a couple hundred feet above you. If they come
48 from the back, you don't even hear them until they're
49 right on top of you.

50

1 But anyway, that's something -- I don't
2 know if it got mentioned, but that's something I've
3 really complained about and the Park Service did have a
4 mitigation committee for Yukon-Charley River at one
5 time, but it was over Peregrine Falcons, not the sheep.
6 I know the Deputy Commissioner for Fish and Game at the
7 time because I was on the Board of Fisheries going to
8 the meeting. I couldn't go to it. They had one in
9 Fairbanks with the Park Service and I don't know
10 whether BLM was there, but a bunch of military people.
11 They played my videos my son and I took, so then they
12 couldn't deny what they were doing.

13
14 But these young guys need to be briefed
15 what the consequences are. I don't know if that got
16 addressed at this thing or not, but that's really a big
17 concern of mine about it.
18 But the Army is real cooperative. They seem to be more
19 cooperative than the Air Force on having good relations
20 with civilian community, but they will be at the
21 Fairbanks AC tonight.

22
23 MR. WOODRUFF: Where's it at?

24
25 MR. UMPHENOUR: It's going to be here.
26 I believe it's going to be here. I think. In fact, I
27 better check. I don't even know where my meeting is
28 for sure.

29
30 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: We'll get a
31 report whenever we know. I understand. That happened
32 to me in the Delta Controlled Use Area one time and it
33 just -- you fall out of your skin when you hear them
34 guys come over.

35
36 Okay. On this subject -- I see the
37 hand. Is it about this?

38
39 MR. CAIN: Yes.

40
41 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Come
42 on up.

43
44 MR. CAIN: Thank you for recognizing
45 me. I'm Bruce with the Ahtna Intertribal Resource
46 Commission. I think this is a wonderful initiative. I
47 have one suggestion for something that we tried down in
48 the Southcentral Region and it never really has gotten
49 anywhere. It's about the road hunting safety. We just

50

1 heard a big issue about that. We have the same issue
2 along the Denali Highway and in the Sourdough area
3 where the caribou cross.

4
5 When this happened, I think two years
6 ago, when the Federal season was open after the State
7 season and the caribou were crossing we had the same
8 problem when it was just the Federally qualified
9 subsistence users. I was telling everybody I said,
10 hey, this is us and it's going to make us look bad.

11
12 We got together with the Ahtna people
13 and we said this shooting at each other at the caribou
14 crossing it's not going to be us. We know how to
15 handle ourselves, but there was quite a few people
16 coming down from the military base at Delta that are
17 qualified, but it was also us.

18
19 So Dennis Teitzel at the time I said we
20 need some kind of road hunting safety brochure that
21 goes in with those Federal permits. So you might add
22 that to your -- I didn't see that on there. It's the
23 same issue you've got up on the Fortymile. Yours is
24 probably worse than ours, but it's the same issue.

25
26 I don't know how to deal with it, but I
27 mean if you sat down and thought about it I think you
28 could figure out there's probably a way -- if you're
29 going to have road hunting and hunt the caribou when
30 they cross the road, there's probably a way to do it
31 organized or somehow, but there's basic rules. You
32 know, you've got a group here, a group here and caribou
33 crossing in the middle, everybody's swinging their
34 guns.

35
36 Anyway, that's all I have. We would
37 certainly be interested in the progress of this and
38 would like to participate when it goes to a broader
39 audience. It's really important. I think, you know,
40 it's just like when we were kids, we used to bring our
41 shotguns into the school and put them in our lockers.
42 That's how ethical we were. We knew to open action and
43 unload the gun and carry it with -- and, you know, our
44 teachers would go hunting with us in the morning before
45 school.

46
47 I mean it's just a different world now.
48 People need to -- you know, you didn't have to tell us.
49 My dad was a World War II combat veteran. I mean if I
50

1 didn't do it right, he knew what to do. But nowadays
2 it's just different. So it's good that you've got a
3 program going there.

4
5 Thank you.

6
7 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Don.

8
9 MR. WOODRUFF: In response to your
10 comments, the Fortymile Coalition had the troopers come
11 to our meeting and they identified some very positive
12 ways to control the hunt a little bit and one was
13 requirement for hunters to wear orange and a shotgun
14 only hunt on the road corridor and stuff like that. So
15 we're going to be addressing those issues when we
16 develop the Fortymile plan.

17
18 MR. CAIN: Thank you.

19
20 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: It's all good
21 information. Thank you, Bruce. As a Council now -- I
22 guess I should ask. Is there anyone else who would
23 like to speak to this at all that's in the audience or
24 online.

25
26 (No comments)

27
28 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Because we
29 all know what the problems are. I guess you could go
30 all day about problems. We need solutions. It's
31 really nice to have started a program like this. We
32 had one State guy at that meeting, the hunter ed guy in
33 the Fairbanks office. It's incredible how much the
34 State has already done a lot of hunter ed pamphlets
35 that are out there and they're really beneficial. I
36 think having them onboard too is awesome, so that means
37 a lot to me.

38
39 I don't know that we need to, but Katya
40 said we might as well endorse this going forward.
41 Andy.

42
43 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, I'd like to make a
44 motion that Eastern Interior Regional Advisory Council
45 support further funding and support from OSM to
46 continue to develop this joint hunter ethics and
47 education program.

48
49 MR. GLANZ: I'll second that gladly.

50

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Motion is
2 made to support the program continuing. Anymore
3 discussion.
4

5 MR. BASSICH: I'll just reference all
6 the comments that were made earlier and the unified
7 voice from all agencies. I didn't hear anybody
8 dissenting that they didn't want to hear or see any of
9 this, so I think there's a broad support and funding
10 needs to be made and efforts need to be made to develop
11 the pilot program.
12

13 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Let the
14 record reflect the comments that were added that we
15 didn't take up and adding the military base. Okay.
16

17 MR. GLANZ: Call the question.
18

19 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: The question
20 has been called for. All in favor of the motion to
21 support the continued effort for hunter education.
22

23 IN UNISON: Aye.
24

25 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Anyone
26 opposed.
27

28 (No opposing votes)
29

30 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Motion
31 passes. All right. New business. Now this would be a
32 question. Do you guys want to do lunch now or do you
33 want to start on the proposals and take up the first
34 one and go a little bit later since we started at
35 11:00.
36

37 MR. BASSICH: Let's go later.
38

39 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Moving
40 into wildlife proposals. The first proposal on the
41 books is WP18-16/50, extend moose winter season in Unit
42 11. This is a crossover proposal and then it goes into
43 those ones that we talked about earlier. We've got a
44 new biologist. Go ahead.
45

46 Andy.
47

48 MR. BASSICH: I'd just like -- I really
49 appreciate the analysis and everything. One thing that
50

1 would really help me as a Council Member when we put
2 these booklets together would be to have tabs put in
3 that would help me to locate.....

4
5 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: You mean like
6 I did?

7
8 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, like what you've
9 done.

10
11 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I did it
12 myself.

13
14 MR. BASSICH: That would be extremely
15 helpful in negotiating this bible here that we have.
16 Just a recommendation to those at OSM that put this
17 together. It's great information, but I think I spend
18 a half an hour every time I go to read it just trying
19 to find or get back to where I was.

20
21 Thank you.

22
23 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: They need to
24 provide these little guys with us when we don't have
25 it. It really works.

26
27 MS. WESSELS: Thank you, Andy. We'll
28 take your recommendation under consideration for the
29 next meeting.

30
31 MS. KLOSTERMAN: Thank you, Madame
32 Chair and Members of the Council. For the record, my
33 name is Megan Klosterman and I'm a wildlife biologist
34 with the Office of Subsistence Management.

35
36 Right now I'm going to go over Proposal
37 WP18-16/50, which can be found on Page 55 of your board
38 book. These proposals were submitted by Keith Rowland
39 of McCarthy and the Eastern Interior Alaska Subsistence
40 Regional Advisory Council, requests a one month
41 extension of the winter moose season in the southern
42 portion of Unit 11, also referred to as the FM1107
43 permit hunt area or the winter hunt area, from November
44 20th through December 20th to November 20th through
45 January 20.

46
47 The proponents state that the winter
48 moose season has been in effect since 2014 access has
49 been difficult due to warm winters. Ice has been

50

1 forming later on the rivers and even by December 20th,
2 the last day of the current season, there is often
3 insufficient snow cover for safe travel by snowmachine.

4
5 No moose surveys have been conducted in
6 this winter hunt area in Unit 11. One was planned for
7 2016, but there was not enough snow cover. There are
8 three main survey areas in Unit 11 with the Crystalline
9 Hills analysis area being the closest one to the winter
10 hunt area. You can see this on Map 2, which is Page
11 65. Moose populations within these survey areas remain
12 stable to slightly increasing through 2013. This
13 winter moose season has been in place since 2014 and
14 during this time only one moose has been harvested.

15
16 If this proposal is adopted, the winter
17 harvest would likely remain low and would continue to
18 be controlled through the use of registration permits.
19 The extension of the winter moose season in Unit 11
20 would also allow Federally qualified subsistence users
21 more opportunity to harvest a bull moose in the winter
22 hunt area.

23
24 Because of this the OSM preliminary
25 conclusion is to support Proposal WP18-16/50.

26
27 Thank you and I'm available for any
28 questions.

29
30 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Council
31 Members, any questions.

32
33 (No comments)

34
35 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: It was asked
36 to me by Megan actually. This is in a crossover
37 proposal for Unit 11 and we -- 12 does not have C&T at
38 all on that hunt is what you were telling me earlier?

39
40 MS. KLOSTERMAN: In that specific area
41 of Unit 11, so where that winter hunt takes place,
42 residents of Unit 12 do not have C&T for that specific
43 area.

44
45 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And I
46 explained to her that being on the Subsistence Resource
47 Commission of the Park we took up that proposal and we
48 even put one in, I think. So that's why this stuff
49 happens. It gets confusing even for the user at times.

50

1 Donald.

2
3 MR. WOODRUFF: I'd like to move to
4 adopt WP18-16/50.

5
6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I think we're
7 early. We need to go through all this process first.

8
9 MR. WOODRUFF: Okay.

10
11 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. All
12 right. Anybody have any questions.

13
14 (No comments)

15
16 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: No questions.
17 Now I have to go to a report on Board consultations
18 with tribes and ANCSA corps?

19
20 Orville.

21
22 MR. LIND: Thank you, Madame Chair.
23 For the record, Orville Lind, Native Liaison for OSM.
24 On September 14 consultation was conducted. There were
25 no comments or questions on this proposal.

26
27 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you,
28 Orville. Agency comments. ADF&G.

29
30 MR. ROBBINS: Madame Chair.

31
32 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes. Frank.

33
34 MR. ROBBINS: This is Frank Robbins in
35 Glennallen. I have a short comment.

36
37 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, Frank.

38
39 Go ahead.

40
41 MR. ROBBINS: For the record, my name
42 is Frank Robbins. I'm the area biologist in
43 Glennallen. There is no current moose population
44 estimates for the FM1107 hunt area. However, only one
45 bull has been harvested on an FM1107 permit since 2014.
46 Decreased daylight and cold temperatures in January
47 will make hunting difficult, resulting in only minimal
48 increase in harvest. Because bulls will have dropped
49 antlers prior to the proposed January 20th season

50

1 closure, it is possible that there will be some
2 accidental cow harvest.

3
4 The Department is neutral on this
5 proposal because it does not create a biological
6 concern for the moose population. There has been very
7 low participation in this hunt, mainly from residents
8 in the McCarthy area. While snow and frozen rivers
9 will aid access in the hunt area, cold temperatures and
10 short days will likely limit harvest.

11
12 Thank you.

13
14 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Is there any
15 other ADF&G comments.

16
17 (No comments)

18
19 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Federal
20 agencies.

21
22 (No comments)

23
24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Tribal?
25 Does Ahtna have some? These are agency comments and I
26 have tribal. I'm confusing myself here. Orville, does
27 that -- this is different.

28
29 MR. LIND: Yes.

30
31 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. We
32 might come back to this because I think -- isn't this
33 -- this is the time for any people's comments, right?

34
35 MR. UMPHENOUR: Yeah.

36
37 MR. WOODRUFF: Public testimony, number
38 6.

39
40 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Bruce, didn't
41 you give us a card and you wanted to be here for this?

42
43 MS. WESSELS: Yes, he wanted to.

44
45 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah. So
46 this is the time that you would comment.

47
48 MR. CAIN: Thank you, Madame Chair.
49 Bruce Cain with Ahtna Intertribal Resource Commission.

50

1 Our comment on Proposal 18-16/50 was that -- and I
2 believe this is just for the moose hunt in the McCarthy
3 area, right? So we really didn't see a problem
4 extending it or leaving it the way it is. It's kind of
5 like what Frank was saying. There's not going to
6 really be a lot of participation up in that -- it's a
7 pretty remote area. You've got to fly in or live up
8 there in McCarthy. Some of the trappers there I think
9 are really about the only ones that are doing that
10 right now.

11
12 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: But legally
13 they can't fly in because it's in what we call the hard
14 park, so they have to go by surface transportation.

15
16 MR. CAIN: Fly in to the McCarthy area.

17
18 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh, I'm
19 sorry. Okay.

20
21 MR. CAIN: Anyway, our comments are
22 more concerned about the 17, 18 and 19 that we're going
23 to be addressing later. So thank you.

24
25 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. So are
26 you neutral on this one? I have something here from
27 CRITR.

28
29 MR. CAIN: We put the take no action
30 based on the recommendations for 18, 19, but that may
31 be a mis.....

32
33 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: We have in
34 our book a letter and it says 18-16 extend winter moose
35 season Unit 11. It says do not support.

36
37 MR. CAIN: Yeah.

38
39 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: See comments
40 on 18 through 17.

41
42 MR. CAIN: We recommended take no
43 action.

44
45 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. So
46 that has changed from this report.

47
48 MR. CAIN: I guess.

49
50

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: No action.
2 Okay.

3
4 MR. CAIN: No action, don't support,
5 however you want to view that.

6
7 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh, take --
8 okay. Are we clear? Any questions?

9
10 (No comments)

11
12 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Are there any
13 other tribal comments.

14
15 (No comments)

16
17 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Anyone
18 online.

19
20 (No comments)

21
22 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.
23 Advisory group comments. Other Regional Councils, Fish
24 and Game Advisory Committee comments or Subsistence
25 Resource Commissions. Since it's all on Park land it
26 comes back to the Subsistence Resource Commissions
27 comments.

28
29 Barbara.

30
31 MS. CELLARIUS: Thank you, Madame
32 Chair. I've got a comment from the Wrangell-St. Elias
33 Subsistence Resource Commission, which as you know is a
34 Federal advisory committee that represents subsistence
35 users of Federal lands within Wrangell-St. Elias
36 National Park and Preserve.

37
38 The SRC met a couple weeks ago and so
39 their comment on this proposal is that the Wrangell-St.
40 Elias SRC supports WP18-16/50. Extending the season
41 will give hunters a better opportunity to safely cross
42 the Chitina River to access the hunt area. The SRC was
43 actually the proponent of the proposal that created
44 this hunt four years ago.

45
46 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any
47 questions.

48
49 (No comments)

50

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I believe,
2 for your information, Karen is from the Ahtna
3 Intertribal and she voted for this, right? Yeah.
4 Karen Linnell is also on the SRC and she voted for it.
5 So was Gloria and they voted for it. Thank you.

6
7 Summary of written comments.

8
9 MS. WESSELS: For the record, Katya
10 Wessels. The Office of Subsistence Management received
11 one written public comment on this proposal and the
12 comment received was from Ahtna Intertribal Resource
13 Commission.

14
15 The comment was we do not support
16 Proposal WP18-50.

17
18 That's it.

19
20 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, I need
21 clarification. Karen, are you still on?

22
23 (No response)

24
25 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Did you have
26 something to add, Megan?

27
28 MS. LINNELL: Yes.

29
30 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh, Karen is
31 still on.

32
33 MS. LINNELL: Sorry. I was trying to
34 take my phone off of mute. Yes, ma'am. We originally
35 opposed it because we were going for a -- because of
36 our other proposal regarding Unit 11. I think it's 18-
37 17 or 18-18. So that's why we opposed it because we
38 thought we could fit everything into that one proposal.

39
40 So at this point we are, as Bruce said,
41 neutral.

42
43 Thank you.

44
45 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you for
46 the clarification.

47
48 Megan.

49
50

1 MS. KLOSTERMAN: Yes, Madame Chair. I
2 just wanted to also mention that the Southcentral RAC
3 met earlier this week and they did support this
4 proposal.

5
6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you.
7 Any public testimony. If you are online, you've got to
8 take your phone off of mute. You can be talking and
9 not realize you're not talking to anyone. Star 6.

10
11 (No comments)

12
13 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Now,
14 Donald.

15
16 MR. WOODRUFF: I make a motion we adopt
17 WP1-16/50. Thank you.

18
19 MR. UMPHENOUR: Second.

20
21 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: It's been
22 moved and seconded. Comments. Go ahead, Andy.

23
24 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, I'm just going to
25 go down our bullet points that Vince so aptly drove
26 through us while he was our coordinator to make this
27 all official.

28
29 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Good job.

30
31 MR. BASSICH: See, Vince, it may have
32 taken 10 years, but you finally got us to do it the
33 right way maybe.

34
35 (Laughter)

36
37 MR. BASSICH: So is there a
38 conservation concern. We've heard testimony from
39 managers that there is no conservation concern. The
40 recommendation to support by substantial evidence such
41 as biological traditional ecological knowledge. It
42 looks like this is a proposal that will help people to
43 harvest in the area.

44
45 Will the recommendation be beneficial
46 or detrimental to subsistence needs. It's obvious in
47 this summary and report from OSM that this will be
48 beneficial to those people living locally to be able to
49 allow them to have an extended season when weather

50

1 conditions are better to access this resource and take
2 advantage of it. I didn't hear any opposition saying
3 that it would restrict other users' efforts.

4
5 Madame Chair.

6
7 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any other
8 discussion. Donald.

9
10 MR. WOODRUFF: I think that we should
11 speak to this proposal about reasonable access or
12 opportunity for hunters. We're tasked to make sure
13 that hunters have reasonable access and this obviously
14 deals with climate change and access and reasonable
15 opportunity for harvest, so I think that speaks loudly
16 to me.

17
18 Thank you.

19
20 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any other
21 discussion.

22
23 MR. GLANZ: I'll call for the question.

24
25 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: The question
26 is called for. All in favor of the motion.

27
28 IN UNISON: Aye.

29
30 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Anyone
31 opposed.

32
33 (No opposing votes)

34
35 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Motion
36 passes. Okay, do you guys want to break now or take
37 one more?

38
39 MR. BASSICH: Let's do one.

40
41 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: It might be a
42 hard one.

43
44 MR. BASSICH: Is it a hard one?

45
46 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: It's a hard
47 one.

48
49 MR. BASSICH: All right.

50

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I think we
2 better break for lunch now, guys. What do you think,
3 come back by 2:30 -- okay, we'll come back by 2:30.

4
5 (Off record)

6
7 (On record)

8
9 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Andy
10 stepped outside, so I guess he'll be right back.
11 Moving right along. Everybody is here but Andy and
12 Lester. I think Lester needs to be away for a while,
13 but he'll be back.

14
15 The next proposal is WP18-19. Megan
16 will introduce the proposal.

17
18 MS. KLOSTERMAN: Hi, again. For the
19 record, my name is Megan Klosterman. WP18-19 can be
20 found on Page 321 of your board book. The proponent,
21 Ahtna Inter-Tribal Resource Commission requests that
22 AITRC be allowed to distribute Federal registration
23 permits to Ahtna tribal members for the Federal caribou
24 season in Units 13A, 13B, and 13 remainder. The
25 proposal also requests that the Ahtna Advisory
26 Committee be added to the list of agencies and
27 organizations consulted by the Bureau of Land
28 Management Glennallen Field Office Manager when
29 announcing the sex of the caribou to be taken in Units
30 13A and 13B.

31
32 The proponent states that per the
33 Memorandum of Agreement between the United States
34 Department of Interior and the AITRC, Federal wildlife
35 proposals are to be written to accommodate Ahtna
36 customary and traditional ways of harvesting large wild
37 game. The proponent also states that AITRC will
38 distribute Federal permits in a customary and
39 traditional manner to Ahtna tribal members, advising
40 them where and when to hunt.

41
42 The delegation of authority cannot be
43 granted to non-Federal agencies as requested in this
44 proposal. An alternative, based on the language found
45 in the November 29, 2016 Memorandum of Agreement
46 between the Department of Interior and the Ahtna
47 Intertribal Resource Commission was considered. The
48 Memorandum describes initiating rulemaking to allow the
49 Federal Subsistence Board to issue one or more

50

1 community harvest permits to the resource commission
2 for a community harvest system authorizing the harvest
3 of moose, caribou, and possibly other wildlife species.
4

5 It is further described in the MOA that
6 the resource commission could then manage harvests by
7 participating Federally qualified subsistence users who
8 reside in the participating villages within a framework
9 established by the Federal Subsistence Board.

10
11 Instead of individual permits, AITRC
12 would provide the Department and Board with a list of
13 all participants who will be hunting under the
14 community harvest permits. The resource commission will
15 also provide Federally qualified subsistence users
16 participating in the community harvest system with a
17 harvest tag or some other form of identification
18 showing their eligibility.
19

20 This alternative would avoid the legal
21 uncertainty associated with this proposal and thus
22 could be implemented within the existing legal
23 framework of the Federal Subsistence Management
24 Program.
25

26 The OSM preliminary conclusion is to
27 defer Proposal WP18-19 until further guidance is
28 received from the Solicitors Office and Department of
29 Interior.
30

31 That's all I have.
32

33 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Council
34 Members, any questions.
35

36 (No comments)
37

38 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: No questions.
39 A report on the Board Consultations with tribes and
40 ANCSA corporations.
41

42 MR. LIND: Madame Chair, Council
43 Members. There was no discussion on the subject
44 through consultation.
45

46 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you,
47 Orville. Agency comments. ADF&G.
48

49 MR. ROBBINS: Madame Chair.
50

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, go
2 ahead.

3
4 MR. ROBBINS: I have a short comment.
5 For the record again, this is Frank Robbins, State area
6 biologist in Glennallen. The Department is neutral on
7 how Federal permits are administered, but cautions
8 against making administrative changes that could affect
9 harvest monitoring and population management in what is
10 already a very complex management situation.

11
12 Additional measures may be needed to
13 ensure that complete record and timely reports are
14 available for in-season and post-season management and
15 for other decision-making processes.

16
17 Thank you.

18
19 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thanks. Any
20 questions.

21
22 (No comments)

23
24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.
25 Hearing none. Moving to any Federal agency comments.

26
27 (No comments)

28
29 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Tribal. For
30 those who signed up we have Bruce Cain.

31
32 MS. LINNELL: Madame Chair.

33
34 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, Karen,
35 go ahead.

36
37 MS. LINNELL: Yes, this is Karen
38 Linnell. I will speak on behalf of the Ahtna
39 Intertribal Resource Commission. As I couldn't be
40 there in person I had Bruce put in a card for us.

41
42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Go
43 ahead, Karen.

44
45 MS. LINNELL: I just wanted to give a
46 brief update on where we're at with the Memorandum of
47 Agreement. We've been working toward implementing
48 that. Since the signing of the agreement at the end of
49 November and with the proposals due in January, we

50

1 didn't have time to finesse it as much as we would have
2 liked. We just wanted to get something in as a
3 placeholder and those are the proposals you're going to
4 review right now.

5
6 At your last RAC meeting last winter
7 you folks had approved a committee charter for the
8 Ahtna subsistence local advisory committee that was
9 approved by both the Eastern Interior and Southcentral
10 RACs and by the Federal Subsistence Board. Since then
11 it's been on hold in the Anchorage office because with
12 the change in administration all of the FACA committees
13 were under review, including the Federal Subsistence
14 Board and the RACs.

15
16 Those had gone through review now and
17 that's why your meeting date was pushed back a little
18 bit. Since then we have received some funding through
19 the Indian Affairs Department to form an elders council
20 and to receive training on both the State and Federal
21 management systems and to document our own tribal
22 management system and to conduct a carnivore study.
23 The carnivore study will fill an information gap that
24 will benefit both State and Federal management.

25
26 We also were invited to participate in
27 a caribou management working group by the Wrangell-St.
28 Elias Park Superintendent. The group consists of the
29 National Park Service, BLM, the Wrangell-St. Elias SRC,
30 some of those members, and AITRC. From that working
31 group we came up with five committees or working groups
32 to gather information. One on the Nelchina, one on the
33 Mentasta, one on the Chisana Caribou Herds, one on
34 collaring and collaring methodologies, how to improve
35 that, and one on access.

36
37 This was a great opportunity for
38 partnership across the landscape.

39
40 We also completed a conservation
41 innovation grant that included taking all the public
42 mapping information available with many agencies,
43 including BLM, National Park Service, Natural Resource
44 Conservation Service, Alaska Department of Fish and
45 Game, Department of Natural Resources and Forestry, and
46 put it into one database on one platform because they
47 were on very different software. It's all in one place
48 now.

49
50

1 With that we were able to conduct a
2 vegetation analysis of the Ahtna Traditional Use
3 Territory. We developed a caribou and moose habitat
4 models. With that we wrote up a 10-year habitat
5 management plan on Ahtna lands. Throughout that whole
6 program I think the most important piece that we did
7 was develop our partnerships. We actually received
8 some training on moose browse surveys with the Alaska
9 Department of Fish and Game and BLM in the Glennallen
10 office there.

11
12 And then to speak to the proposals
13 themselves, again they were placeholders as we were in
14 a time constraint to get something in. We believe that
15 moving forward with this to keep the ball rolling to
16 get things moving is an important part of that
17 cooperative management that was undertaken by the
18 Secretary when we signed the MOA.

19
20 What I would like to see is that we
21 modify the proposal that's before you to establish a
22 community harvest system for moose and caribou in Units
23 11 and 13 to be managed by AITRC and open to Federally
24 qualified rural residents of the Ahtna Traditional Use
25 Territory. This is language that comes out of the MOA.

26
27 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Any
28 questions.

29
30 Andy.

31
32 MR. BASSICH: Thank you for that. I've
33 got a question. If this were to be implemented, would
34 there be anything to preclude an Ahtna tribal member
35 from going to one of the other agencies to get a permit
36 to hunt?

37
38 MS. LINNELL: No, sir. This is not a
39 mandatory participation. Any of our neighbors that
40 live within the Ahtna Traditional Use Territory that
41 want to participate in this community harvest may do so
42 and any tribal members that don't want to may go
43 directly to the Bureau of Land Management or National
44 Park Service for their permits as they currently do.

45
46 I also want to speak in answer to the
47 State of Alaska's comment regarding permit reporting,
48 requirements and having data in a timely fashion. We
49 currently manage a community harvest hunt under the
50

1 State management system. We're very thorough in our
2 reporting and in meeting those reporting requirements
3 that they have.

4
5 Our hunt coordinator does the best that
6 she can to collect data immediately and our
7 participants have been very good at calling in and
8 reporting in a timely fashion.

9
10 MR. BASSICH: A follow-up question.
11 I'm trying to get it wrapped around my head why you're
12 putting this in. I guess I want to hear confirmation
13 from you, maybe I'm off, what Ahtna is trying to do is
14 provide for the ability to continue to carry out their
15 traditional ways of hunting. So both means and times
16 of hunting and maybe methodologies. Is that what the
17 purpose of this is so that you have maybe a little bit
18 more ability to continue traditional practices on this
19 particular hunt or is there something more or am I
20 missing something?

21
22 MS. LINNELL: Well, it's to establish a
23 cooperative management and then, yes, to continue with
24 our traditional hunt methods. In the MOA one of the
25 things that it says is that it will be implemented
26 immediately following -- at the earliest possible --
27 going through the process, the earliest possible
28 opportunity, which is this wildlife proposal season.
29 If we wait, it will be two more years out.

30
31 So that's why we put the proposal in
32 when we did.

33
34 I'm sorry.

35
36 Southcentral RAC actually had the MOA
37 in their proposal folders or book.

38
39 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: We have it
40 also.

41
42 MS. LINNELL: Okay. I'm looking for
43 it.

44
45 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: We have it on
46 Page 331 in our books.

47
48 MS. LINNELL: Okay. There it is.
49 Thank you.

50

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Karen, I had
2 a question. At our subsistence resource commission
3 meeting we discussed this both on and off the record
4 and we agreed to Ahtna being able to issue permits both
5 to tribal members and other qualified users.

6
7 MS. LINNELL: Yes, ma'am.

8
9 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I think
10 that's all we agreed to, I thought. Are you seeing it
11 differently?

12
13 MS. LINNELL: No. That's what that was
14 what was told to us or that's what we agreed to at the
15 Wrangell-St. Elias SRC at the meeting in Homer
16 yesterday and the day before with the Southcentral RAC.
17 We had OSM Staff there as well and we went through
18 their arguments or their comments to the ability to
19 issue permits and with the current CFR, I think it's
20 100.10, there is no ability for them to delegate
21 outside of their agencies.

22
23 But there is the ability for the
24 Federal Subsistence Board to issue a community hunt
25 permit which will then be able to within that community
26 hunt permit have the permittee designate and issue, for
27 lack of another word, permits to those participants.

28
29 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. I
30 think what was happening at the SRC meeting that I want
31 to confirm with you, I think the SRC just said, hey, we
32 disagree with OSM. You guys should be able to do the
33 same permit. So when people are in the field it's
34 exactly the same permit and that is my understanding we
35 agreed on. Can you help me out?

36
37 MS. LINNELL: That was what was agreed
38 to at the SRC, yes.

39
40 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah. Any
41 other questions.

42
43 (No comments)

44
45 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Moving
46 on. Thank you, Karen.

47
48 MS. LINNELL: Thank you.

49
50

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Anyone else
2 in teleconference land would like to speak on tribal.

3
4 (No comments)

5
6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Next
7 is advisory group comments. Other Regional Advisory
8 Councils, then Fish and Game and SRC. Southcentral.
9 Are you going to speak to that one? Okay.

10
11 MS. KLOSTERMAN: Thank you, Madame
12 Chair. The Southcentral RAC earlier this week, as
13 Karen already mentioned, supported this with
14 modification to put into place a community harvest
15 system for moose and caribou in Units 11 and 13 to be
16 managed by the Ahtna Intertribal Resource Commission
17 and open to Federally qualified rural residents of the
18 Ahtna Traditional Use Territory and use current Federal
19 regulations for seasons and bag limits.

20
21 They also voted to make a
22 recommendation to the Board seeking Secretarial
23 modification to issue Federal permits to all types of
24 Federally qualified users.

25
26 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Thank
27 you. Any questions.

28
29 (No comments)

30
31 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Next.
32 Is there any Fish and Game Advisory Committees that
33 took this up?

34
35 (No comments)

36
37 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Next is the
38 SRC. Barbara is going to give more information.

39
40 MS. CELLARIUS: Thank you, Madame
41 Chair. For the record it's Barbara Cellarius with
42 Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and I'm going to read
43 comments from both the Wrangell-St. Elias Subsistence
44 Resource Commission and the Denali National Park
45 Subsistence Resource Commission.

46
47 I'll start with Wrangell-St. Elias and
48 Sue has already alluded to this. The Wrangell-St.
49 Elias SRC supports WP18-19 with modification, that it

50

1 also applies to moose hunts in Units 11 and 13 and that
2 the Ahtna Intertribal Resource Commission have the
3 authority to issue permits to all Federally qualified
4 subsistence users not just tribal members.

5
6 The SRC supports the idea of AITRC
7 issuing Federal subsistence permits, however recommends
8 they be able to issue the permits to all qualified
9 hunters noting that it is important to work together
10 without dividing communities.

11
12 The Denali SRC also met recently. The
13 Denali National Park Subsistence Resource Commission
14 supports a modified version of WP18-19. Specifically,
15 the SRC recommends amending the proposal to support the
16 potential for AITRC to issue all permits. This
17 proposal was submitted by AITRC.

18
19 The Denali SRC supports Denali National
20 Park collaborating with AITRC to issue Federal
21 subsistence moose and caribou permits for GMU 13 in
22 Cantwell. Partnering with AITRC provides an
23 opportunity for the Park to share information and
24 develop relationships with AITRC and local subsistence
25 users.

26
27 Those are the two SRC comments I have.

28
29 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any
30 questions.

31
32 (No comments)

33
34 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Next
35 is summary of written public comments.

36
37 MS. WESSELS: For the record, Katya
38 Wessels. Office of Subsistence Management received one
39 written public comment in support of the Wildlife
40 Proposal WP18-19. The comment was received from Ahtna
41 Intertribal Resource Commission and it reads that we
42 support WP18-19 to allow Ahtna Intertribal Resource
43 Commission to distribute Unit 13 Nelchina Caribou
44 hunting permits to Ahtna tribal members who are
45 Federally qualified customary and traditional use
46 hunters.

47
48 Ahtna Intertribal Resource Commission
49 has management capability to distribute Unit 13

50

1 Nelchina Caribou permits to tribal members. Ahtna,
2 Inc. staff who are on loan to the Ahtna Intertribal
3 Resource Commission has coordinated the Copper Basin
4 community subsistence hunt since the year 2009. Ahtna
5 Intertribal Resource Commission has experienced staff
6 to distribute Nelchina Caribou permits and ensure
7 tribal hunters return caribou permits.

8

9

That's the end of it.

10

11

Thank you.

12

13

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you.

14

Do I have any public testimony.

15

16

(No comments)

17

18

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Is there

19

anybody online that wants to speak to Proposal 19.

20

21

(No comments)

22

23

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right.

24

I'm ready for a motion. Council, what's our
25 recommendation.

26

27

MR. UMPHENOUR: Move to adopt Proposal

28

18-19.

29

30

MR. WOODRUFF: Second.

31

32

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Discussion.

33

I do want to just give you a little bit more
34 information. There was quite a bit of discussion on
35 this. At our SRC meeting we took up 17 first. That's
36 why we took up 19 first because it just got too
37 confusing with both 17 and 18 in front of 19. It has
38 more of the stuff that you need to wrap your head
39 around.

40

41

We went to lunch and we sat and talked
42 and everybody said we can agree to Ahtna being able to
43 issue the same permit that OSM does. We really didn't
44 care that OSM said that they couldn't do it. We
45 believe it's not a problem. They should be able to do
46 it. So figure it out is kind of where we came from.

47

48

A lot of people in the region feel a
49 little uncomfortable going down to that new guy at the

50

1 BLM office. The Park Service has been pretty much the
2 same people for a while, but they feel more comfortable
3 going in and getting their permit from people that know
4 them. We felt that we could really support something
5 like that.

6
7 Now what I'm hearing is that
8 Southcentral were told that they can't do that, so then
9 they would get the -- they have to have a community
10 permit. That sounds like a different permit to me than
11 the one they would get from the Federal government. So
12 now you complicate things even more for the user.

13
14 If this helps you guys understand what
15 we decided. Okay.

16
17 Donald.

18
19 MR. WOODRUFF: I think as long as the
20 permits are issued to all Federally qualified
21 subsistence hunters, then I don't see any issue with
22 them having that delegated authority.

23
24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Right.
25 That's what we agreed to. It should be both. So even
26 if a person like a tribal member decided they didn't
27 want to go in to Ahtna and get their permit, they could
28 still go down the road. So there was just another --
29 to me, I look at it this way. I'm a vendor for fish
30 and game licensing and it's just another vendor that
31 gives out the permit. So I guess I have difficulty
32 understanding why something like this can't be done.

33
34 Andy.

35
36 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, I would agree with
37 that. Going by our bulleted discussion points here
38 there doesn't seem to be any kind of a conservation
39 concern with this proposal. It's just allowing for
40 hunters to have another opportunity to get their permit
41 from a different entity.

42
43 I understand that because where I live
44 if I had to go to Tok or Fairbanks to go get a permit
45 to go hunt moose or caribou, it would be a big
46 inconvenience. So the ability to have a vendor there
47 in Eagle to take care of all these different permitting
48 and also get the information that you need on bag
49 limits and hunting times and seasons is really

50

1 important to have that in your local community.

2

3 I also support the fact that Ahtna has
4 been pretty much ahead of the ball game on trying to
5 work to have community hunts to manage their game in
6 their area for long-term sustainability and I really
7 applaud that effort to do that. So I'm definitely
8 going to be in support of this.

9

10 Also that's why I was asking the
11 questions about hunting traditionally. I think one of
12 the struggles that we're dealing with now is that we've
13 had a lot of generations and different types of
14 fisheries or different type of hunting activities that
15 have lost some of these traditional methods and means.

16

17 It sounds to me like they're trying to
18 encourage and teach and make sure that some of their
19 traditional values and methods are going to be
20 sustained and I think that's incredibly important
21 because once you lose that it costs a ton of money if
22 you can even achieve it. Most of the time it's very
23 difficult to achieve.

24

25 So I think this is another effort to
26 keep it kind of -- I'm going to say in-house a little
27 bit more and I think that should be supported. I
28 believe this will be beneficial to the Federally
29 qualified subsistence users in that region for the
30 reasons I stated above. And it doesn't sound like it's
31 going to restrict any other people. It's just
32 basically opening up a new venue for getting
33 permitting.

34

35 That said, Madame Chair, I'm going to
36 be in support of this proposal.

37

38 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. I just
39 want to clarify something. The proposal, if you read
40 it, requests for a community hunt, so it would be a
41 different permit than the regular permit that they
42 would get. If I understand it correctly here,
43 Southcentral supported with modification and then they
44 said to establish a community harvest system for moose
45 and caribou and 11 and 13 to be managed by AITRC to
46 open to Federally qualified rural subsistence users of
47 the Ahtna Region.

48

49 I guess, you know, taking baby steps in

50

1 things, what the SRC adopted is different. They
2 adopted where it's the same Federal permit. This would
3 be a different permit. For me, personally, I'd go with
4 the SRC because I hate to see people trying to figure
5 out what permit they need to have when they're out
6 hunting. So allowing Ahtna to be just an arm of the
7 government would -- I have no problem with that and the
8 SRC agreed to that and that's what we agreed to at the
9 meeting.

10

11 MS. KLOSTERMAN: Thank you, Madame
12 Chair. I want to try to clarify and I hope I'm saying
13 this correctly, but I think this proposal is looking
14 for AITRC to manage the hunt basically within their
15 historic territory, which would be a different permit
16 than what we have in our regulations. I think they're
17 wanting delegation of authority to change bag limits
18 and seasons, which then would have to be a different
19 registration permit of some sort.

20

21 Currently, under current regulations,
22 OSM cannot do that and that's why our preliminary
23 conclusion was to defer until we can get further
24 guidance from the solicitor's office and DOI to see how
25 we would go about anything like that.

26

27 So what's in the regulation books
28 currently would still be in the books and I think this
29 proposal is looking for additional permits and hunts on
30 top of that managed by AITRC if I'm not mistaken.

31

32 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I believe
33 that sums it up quite well.

34

35 MR. UMPHENOUR: I need to ask a
36 question.

37

38 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Virgil would
39 like to ask a question.

40

41 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay. We're getting a
42 confusing thing going. There's a Federal moose hunt in
43 the Koyukuk National Wildlife Refuge and the people
44 that get the permits can only hunt on Refuge land.
45 They cannot hunt on Native corporation land. So my
46 question is would they be able to hunt caribou on Ahtna
47 land with these permits?

48

49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Who can

50

1 answer that question?

2

3

MS. LINNELL: Madame Chair, I can.

4

5

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

6

7

MS. LINNELL: This is Karen Linnell.

8

No, this is only on Federal land and within the
9 confines of current seasons and bag limits. It doesn't
10 give us autonomy to -- we can get stricter, but we
11 cannot get more lax in season and bag limits. That's
12 not been passed by yourselves and the Federal
13 Subsistence Board.

14

15

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That's an
16 important piece of information. Can you give an
17 example, Karen, like we did at the SRC.

18

19

MS. LINNELL: So if the -- like right
20 now the season is August 1 to September 20 for moose.
21 Many of our elders say that August 1 is too early
22 because it's too warm nowadays. When it was originally
23 started it wasn't so bad. So a lot of us don't go out
24 on August 1st. We wait because our elders say it's too
25 soon. So we can get a little more restrictive and say
26 wait until the leaves start to change color and then
27 you can go out. Within the hunt you can say they're
28 starting to go into rut, so we'll stop the season
29 early. That's the kinds of things we can do within the
30 permit.

31

32

Does that clarify for you?

33

34

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That's really
35 a lot of good information. Did you have more
36 questions, Virgil?

37

38

MR. UMPHENOUR: Right. Well, I want to
39 weigh in here a little bit. The OSM preliminary
40 conclusion is that the Board does not have the
41 authority to do this, period. They want to defer it
42 because the Board has no authority.

43

44

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: If I can help
45 you understand, that means for them to issue the same
46 permits.

47

48

MR. UMPHENOUR: To issue the permits.

49

50

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah. To
2 issue permits like they would get from the Federal
3 government. They don't have the authority to issue the
4 same permit. That's what they're saying. But they do
5 have permission to -- do you want to explain it again.

6
7 MS. KLOSTERMAN: Umm.....

8
9 MS. LINNELL: Yeah. Oh, I'm sorry.

10
11 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I was going
12 to have Megan do it, Karen, because she said it really
13 well. On a community hunt they can't issue permits.

14
15 MS. KLOSTERMAN: Again, for the record,
16 this is Megan Klosterman. So what the Southcentral RAC
17 supported is something that we could possibly do, which
18 is to issue a community harvest system or permit to
19 AITRC. So AITRC would get the permit and then AITRC
20 then from there could hand out not permits per se, but
21 they would basically be able to tell people within the
22 community that they could go hunt and it would give
23 them some sort of identification to show that they're
24 hunting under the community permit. If that makes
25 sense.

26
27 MR. UMPHENOUR: Right. The community
28 would get allocated X number of permits or X number of
29 animals.

30
31 MS. KLOSTERMAN: It would be X number
32 of animals possibly, but there would just be one permit
33 for the community and then the community would delegate
34 who goes out and hunts for those animals.

35
36 MR. UMPHENOUR: Fine. I did that when
37 I was on the Board of Fish before this ever happened
38 back in the early '90s for Copper Center for a
39 fishwheel.

40
41 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Andy.

42
43 MR. BASSICH: So the recommendations
44 for a modification from Southcentral, is that
45 considered an amendment to this particular proposal?

46
47 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes.

48
49 MR. BASSICH: So we could support this

50

1 with the amendment stated by Southcentral and basically
2 be in support of the same language that Southcentral
3 put into it. How does that.....

4
5 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: We could do
6 that, yes.

7
8 MR. BASSICH: So how does that really
9 change it. I guess I'm still a little bit lost. How
10 does that actually change what happens? It's just one
11 permit going to the Ahtna Tribe and that's it instead
12 of it being a permit that goes out to all Federally
13 qualified people. So we're basically saying we're
14 supporting a community-based hunt if we were to support
15 what Southcentral has.

16
17 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: (Nodding)

18
19 MR. BASSICH: Okay. I think I have it
20 a little more clear.

21
22 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: But any
23 qualified user could get it, not just Ahtna, correct?

24
25 MS. KLOSTERMAN: Any qualified user
26 within the Ahtna Historic.....

27
28 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Region.

29
30 MS. KLOSTERMAN:Territory could
31 join into.....

32
33 MR. BASSICH: Okay. Thank you. That
34 clarifies.

35
36 MS. KLOSTERMAN:that community
37 hunt.

38
39 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: But you'd
40 probably have to have a C&T too.

41
42 MS. KLOSTERMAN: Yes, yes. Of course,
43 of course.

44
45 MR. BASSICH: Okay. Well, saying that,
46 I would support that amendment to this so we would be
47 in alignment or agreement with Southcentral and take
48 their additional.....

49
50

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. So
2 before we do that. Barbara, what did you have to add?

3
4 MS. CELLARIUS: I was just going to say
5 that the SRC supported the proposal that was originally
6 submitted which talked about issuing the existing
7 Federal subsistence permits.

8
9 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That's right.
10 And I wanted to....

11
12 MS. CELLARIUS: That's what the SRC
13 supported.

14
15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Right.

16
17 MS. CELLARIUS: And then Southcentral
18 did something difference.

19
20 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Exactly.

21
22 MS. CELLARIUS: But I just wanted to
23 clarify that the proposal that was originally submitted
24 by AITRC they would have been issuing the existing
25 Federal permits, but at this point OSM says that's not
26 possible.

27
28 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: See, from the
29 standpoint of us in the region we just felt like it's a
30 lot easier for the user to have the same permit and not
31 create more havoc. What the SRC did was we said that,
32 yes, we agree that Ahtna could issue permits the same
33 kind and to other Federally qualified users and that
34 they could go to either a Federal entity to get the
35 permit or they could come to Ahtna.

36
37 Whatever makes people comfortable.
38 There's non-tribal members that would probably go get
39 it from Ahtna too. So people are getting permits for
40 land use and other things from Ahtna and they're very
41 accustomed to doing that.

42
43 For me, personally, I'm kind of hung up
44 on what the SRC did because if somebody tells me that I
45 can't do something and I feel there's a way to do it, I
46 feel like that's the way we should send the message.
47 Make it easy for the user.

48
49 MS. LINNELL: Madame Chair, if I might.

50

1 This is Karen Linnell.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, Karen.

4 Go ahead.

5

6 MS. LINNELL: In regards to simplifying
7 things, instead of AITRC issuing two permits to folks,
8 it will be one through the community hunt and that is
9 simplifying things.

10

11 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: But I guess
12 what gets a little confusing is what do they need to
13 hunt or can they go back and get another permit from
14 the Federal government, so they would end up -- would
15 you eliminate that they'd only have one permit and not
16 be able to get another permit?

17

18 MS. LINNELL: Through our discussions
19 at the Southcentral RAC meeting, it will be an
20 either/or. Either they participate in this community
21 hunt process or they go to the National Park Service
22 and BLM to get their permits. They cannot do both.

23

24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Right
25 now what we have is a motion to support as written,
26 which gives Ahtna Intertribal Commission be allowed to
27 distribute Federal registration permits to Ahtna tribal
28 members for Federal caribou hunts in 13A, 13B and 13
29 remainder. The proposal also requests that Ahtna
30 Advisory Committee be added to the list of agencies and
31 organizations consulted by the BLM Glennallen Field
32 Office when announcing the sex of caribou to be taken
33 in Units 13A and B.

34

35 So that proposal would be to allow them
36 to write the permit, which you're saying they can't.

37

38 MS. KLOSTERMAN: That's what I was
39 told, yes.

40

41 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Thank
42 you. Andy.

43

44 MR. BASSICH: So if the analysis is
45 telling us that under the current regulations this
46 can't take place, but under the amended version of this
47 as presented by Southcentral it would allow them to
48 create their community hunt and as we've heard maybe
49 have a choice between one or the other. That to me

50

1 seems like a good option.

2
3 There's no reason for this RAC to
4 support something that cannot be done by OSM as stated
5 through their analysis. What's the point of supporting
6 something that they say they can't do legally if their
7 hands are tied. In an effort to further the ability
8 for people in their region to have a little bit more
9 control over the game in their area, the hunts that
10 take place and the methods and all that I would be in
11 favor of amending our support to align with
12 Southcentral's motion and support. I see that as good
13 for the hunters.

14
15 I see that as good for Ahtna because it
16 gives them the ability to have these community hunts.
17 Quite frankly, my own personal feeling is I think we're
18 going to have to go a little bit more towards some of
19 these community hunts more in the future because of
20 some of the issues that we talk about all the time with
21 just so many people.

22
23 So I would be in support of supporting
24 the language that Southcentral has. How we get to that
25 point for our motion I'll leave up to the Chair.

26
27 Thank you.

28
29 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: It's going to
30 take an amendment.

31
32 Other discussion.

33
34 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay, I know what will
35 happen at the Board meeting. The solicitor, the
36 attorney for the Board, is going to say you don't have
37 authority to do the proposal as written, so the Board
38 is not going to do it. That's what will happen. That's
39 what happens with the Board of Game, Board of Fish, all
40 Boards. Unless they have a lawyer on the Board and he
41 challenges the other lawyer, I've seen that happen at
42 the Board of Fish meetings before.

43
44 (Laughter)

45
46 MR. UMPHENOUR: No, I'm serious.

47
48 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: But it's
49 funny.

50

1 MR. UMPHENOUR: Yeah. And the Board
2 actually vote against what their own lawyer said.

3
4 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I like that
5 part.

6
7 MR. UMPHENOUR: Right. But I seriously
8 doubt if the Federal Subsistence Board is going to do
9 that, so it can't pass as written. It has to be
10 modified so that the lawyer will agree they have the
11 authority to do it.

12
13 I don't know whether what you guys in
14 the SRC came up with is really that much different, but
15 anyway.....

16
17 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Well, it is
18 different. It's just different in that it's the same
19 permit and they're an extended arm from the government.
20 They just get to issue the permit then.

21
22 MR. UMPHENOUR: Right.

23
24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, I get
25 that they.....

26
27 MR. UMPHENOUR: But it says -- Sue, it
28 says that they don't have the authority to do it. It
29 says under the justification at the very end on Page
30 327.....

31
32 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I know that.

33
34 MR. UMPHENOUR:only Federal
35 employees can issue permits. It says the only permit
36 they could issue would be delegated somehow to the
37 community and give the community an allocation of X
38 number of caribou and then the community designates who
39 the hunters are and they go out and shoot X number of
40 caribou. Am I wrong or am I understanding this wrong
41 or right?

42
43 MS. KENNER: Thank you, Madame Chair.
44 This is Pippa Kenner with the Office of Subsistence
45 Management.

46
47 I think you're right and I was just
48 going to try to help by saying that what was in the
49 proposal because the Office of Subsistence Management
50

1 has come back and is still working out with the
2 solicitor what the Board can and cannot authorize as
3 far as delegation of issuing permits within Federal
4 subsistence management regulations the mechanism that
5 we use is called a community hunt reporting system, a
6 community hunt structure.

7
8 The Board is allowed to authorize
9 community hunt systems and that's why the Southcentral
10 and AITRC is suggesting the community hunt structure
11 because that's what's in the Federal regulations that
12 the Federal Subsistence Board is allowed to authorize.

13
14 MR. UMPHENOUR: Did you get that, Sue?

15
16 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah. The
17 lawyers are still arguing.

18
19 MR. UMPHENOUR: I'm not arguing. I'm
20 just saying there's no sense in voting on something
21 that they don't have the authority to do and the
22 solicitor is going to tell them they don't. You have
23 to vote.....

24
25 MS. KENNER: And that's what I
26 believe.....

27
28 MR. UMPHENOUR:on something that
29 they do have the authority.

30
31 MS. KENNER:Member Bassich was
32 saying. He was saying we should look at this community
33 hunt structure like Southcentral did and AITRC because
34 they have learned that's the vehicle that is used to
35 get to community distribution of permits.

36
37 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: But didn't
38 you say that they're still looking at this to what they
39 can and can't do?

40
41 MS. KENNER: I don't have the OSM
42 justification in front of me. Megan, could you read
43 that last sentence.

44
45 MS. KLOSTERMAN: The last sentence of
46 the justification states until further guidance is
47 received from the Solicitors Office and Department of
48 Interior the recommended course of action is to defer
49 action on this proposal.

50

1 MS. KENNER: Because the Federal
2 program has a community hunt system in regulation.
3 That is the vehicle for doing what the proponent
4 requests. It isn't exactly what the proponent
5 requests, but it's what can be allowed in regulation in
6 the Federal program currently.

7
8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Andy.

9
10 MR. BASSICH: I'd like to ask a
11 procedural question here. Since we have the motion to
12 support this as presented, would it be easier for us to
13 just vote on this and not support it and create a new
14 motion or is it better for us to just make a
15 modification to this with.....

16
17 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: The
18 modification.....

19
20 MR. BASSICH:wording that would
21 coincide with what Southcentral is supporting and then
22 move on that.

23
24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Well, you
25 know how I am. I like to make things simple. A simple
26 way to do it is for the second to pull.....

27
28 MR. UMPHENOUR: I move to amend the
29 proposal.

30
31 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That's one
32 way.

33
34 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay. That's the way
35 you do it.

36
37 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I know, but I
38 like the simple way.

39
40 MR. UMPHENOUR: I move to amend the
41 proposal to do it the way they can actually do it.
42 Make a community harvest.

43
44 (Laughter)

45
46 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I wanted to
47 do it simple and not confusing, Virgil.

48
49 MR. UMPHENOUR: That's simple.

50

1 MR. BASSICH: So, Madame Chair, if I
2 could maybe help Virgil a little bit. So the amendment
3 to the motion would be that the language used by
4 Southcentral and supported by Southcentral would be
5 what we would be supporting.

6
7 Madame Chair.

8
9 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah. Do you
10 want me to read it, what they said? Support with
11 modification, and that would be the amendment, to
12 establish a community harvest system for moose and
13 caribou in GMU 11 and 13 to be managed by AITRC and
14 open to Federally qualified rural residents of Ahtna
15 Traditional Use Territory.

16
17 This was sent to me by Karen, so that's
18 how I can read it.

19
20 MR. BASSICH: I would second that.

21
22 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Did you make
23 the motion?

24
25 MR. UMPHENOUR: I made the motion.

26
27 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Virgil
28 made the motion and Andy seconded it. Are you
29 thoroughly confused at our motion?

30
31 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay. I'll speak to my
32 motion.

33
34 MS. WESSELS: No, I'm not confused.

35
36 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, good.
37 Anyone else.

38
39 MS. WESSELS: At first.....

40
41 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. We're
42 good.

43
44 MS. WESSELS: So I can just go over it.
45 At first we had a motion to adopt by Virgil and
46 seconded by Don and then now we amended that original
47 motion to support the language that was used by
48 Southcentral RAC and a motion was made by Virgil and
49 seconded by Andy.

50

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

2
3 MS. WESSELS: So I guess now the vote
4 is on the amended motion.

5
6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

7
8 MS. WESSELS: And discussion and
9 justification.

10
11 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah. And
12 Virgil is going to speak to the motion, the amended
13 motion.

14
15 Virgil.

16
17 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay. This is the only
18 legal way it can be done. Doing something that they
19 can't do, the Board doesn't have the authority. It's a
20 waste of time. So it has to be amended so that it's
21 legal to do.

22
23 Madame Chair.

24
25 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Andy.

26
27 MR. BASSICH: And I just want to
28 reference the comments made earlier when we were going
29 to support this in its original language because I
30 think it still applies to the amended version for the
31 record.

32
33 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I still want
34 it to be in the record that I don't see any problem
35 with Ahtna issuing the exact same permit as the
36 government. You know, to me, I don't -- I'm sorry, but
37 I don't care what OSM and the lawyers say. There's
38 sometimes you do have to work towards something that
39 works for the people. So I want that in the record.

40
41 That's my opinion.

42
43 Okay.

44
45 Andy.

46
47 MR. BASSICH: Thank you. I agree with
48 you. I think what's happening here is we're trying to
49 give our support at this time for something that is

50

1 feasible, but I would certainly encourage Ahtna and the
2 Federal Subsistence Board to work together to try and
3 come up with a methodology to be able to do that in the
4 future.

5
6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you.

7
8 MS. KLOSTERMAN: Sue.

9
10 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Megan.

11
12 MS. KLOSTERMAN: Thank you, Madame
13 Chair. I did want to point out that the Southcentral
14 RAC also voted to make a recommendation to the Board
15 seeking Secretarial modification to issue Federal
16 permits to all types of Federally qualified subsistence
17 users. So you could also do something like that in
18 addition to your stance on this proposal.

19
20 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I think we
21 messed up.

22
23 MR. UMPHENOUR: It would be a different
24 motion anyway.

25
26 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.
27 Speaking to the motion on the floor is for modifying
28 the proposal for a community harvest system on moose
29 and caribou.

30
31 MR. UMPHENOUR: Call for question.

32
33 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: The question
34 is called for. All in favor of the amended motion say
35 aye.

36
37 IN UNISON: Aye.

38
39 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Anyone
40 opposed.

41
42 (No opposing votes)

43
44 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Moving
45 to the main motion now. It's to favor with the
46 modification. Do we need anymore discussion.

47
48 (No comments)

49
50

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. All in
2 favor of the motion as amended say aye.

3
4 IN UNISON: Aye.

5
6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Anyone
7 opposed.

8
9 (No opposing votes)

10
11 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, it
12 passes. Did we want to do anymore on that? What did
13 you say they did exactly?

14
15 MS. KLOSTERMAN: They voted to make a
16 recommendation to the Board seeking Secretarial
17 modification to issue Federal permits to all types of
18 Federally qualified subsistence users.

19
20 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: For AITRC.

21
22 MS. KLOSTERMAN: That is correct.

23
24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I wouldn't
25 mind seeing that done here. Do I have any help or did
26 we just wear you completely out?

27
28 MR. BASSICH: No, no, no. Just
29 daydreaming.

30
31 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So that would
32 do what I'm trying to say, right?

33
34 MS. KLOSTERMAN: Yes, that would be
35 asking for the Board, yes, to seek Secretarial
36 modification, so the Department of Interior Secretary
37 to change the regulations to allow that.

38
39 MR. BASSICH: Is there a number to that
40 proposal?

41
42 MS. KLOSTERMAN: It's not an actual
43 proposal. It's just a side recommendation.

44
45 MS. LINNELL: Madame Chair.

46
47 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes.

48
49 MS. LINNELL: I have the language that
50

1 they used yesterday. I wrote it down what they spoke.
2 I can read it to you.

3
4 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

5
6 MS. LINNELL: They moved to recommend
7 that the Council submit a letter to the Federal
8 Subsistence Board seeking Secretarial modification of
9 50 CFR 100.10(d)(6) to allow AITRC to issue Federal
10 subsistence permits to all Federally qualified
11 subsistence users.

12
13 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: It's right
14 here. I found your letter you sent me.

15
16 Go ahead, Andy.

17
18 MR. BASSICH: I'd like to make a motion
19 using the language as presented to us by Karen for
20 consideration by the Eastern RAC.

21
22 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: It's a letter
23 to the Federal Subsistence Board seeking Secretarial
24 modification of 50 CFR 100.10(d)(6) to allow AITRC to
25 issue Federal subsistence permits to all Federally
26 qualified subsistence users.

27
28 I have a motion on the floor.

29
30 Is there a second.

31
32 MR. GLANZ: I second it.

33
34 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Do we
35 need any other discussion?

36
37 MR. GLANZ: I don't.

38
39 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All in favor.

40
41 IN UNISON: Aye.

42
43 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Anyone
44 opposed.

45
46 (No opposing votes)

47
48 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Motion
49 passes. Thank you very much everybody for getting us

50

1 through that. Sometimes we're sleepy after lunch.

2

3 Next is 17 and 18. No, I'm sorry, 17
4 first. Sorry. I'm sleepy too.

5

6 Go ahead.

7

8 MS. KLOSTERMAN: So I am going to go
9 over the analysis for WP18-17. I am not going to cover
10 the permitting part because we already covered that
11 with 19.

12

13 Proposal WP18 17 can be found on Page
14 274 of your board book. This proposal was also
15 submitted by the Ahtna Intertribal Resource Commission
16 and requests that the moose season on Federal public
17 lands in that portion of Unit 11 draining into the east
18 bank of the Copper River upstream from and including
19 the Slana River drainage and Unit 11 remainder be
20 changed from August 20th through September 20th to
21 August 20th through March 31st, which is an extension
22 of six months. You can see a map of these moose hunt
23 areas on Page 283 of your meeting materials.

24

25 The proponent states that this proposal
26 would provide more opportunity for Ahtna Tribal members
27 to harvest a moose during the fall and winter months
28 according to customary and traditional
29 practices.

30

31 There are three main moose survey areas
32 in Unit 11. These areas include the Upper Copper River
33 analysis area, Mt. Drum analysis area and the
34 Crystalline Hills analysis area. The moose populations
35 within these survey areas have remained stable to
36 slightly increasing through 2013.

37

38 In 2013, moose densities across the
39 main survey areas were low ranging from 0.7 moose per
40 square mile to 1.1 moose per square mile. Hunting
41 pressure has typically been low in Unit 11 in part
42 because moose densities are greater and access is
43 easier in adjacent Unit 13.

44

45 From 2012 to 2016 the average annual
46 harvest in Unit 11 was 59 moose. If the proposal was
47 adopted, it would lengthen the moose season on Federal
48 public lands by approximately six months. This would
49 provide Federally qualified subsistence users more

50

1 opportunity to harvest moose according to their
2 customary and traditional practices.

3
4 Moose populations in Unit 11 have
5 remained relatively stable to slightly increasing but
6 occur in low densities and are subject to population
7 fluctuations due to severe winters, predation and
8 hunting pressure.

9
10 Increasing the moose season by six
11 months has the potential to significantly increase the
12 bull harvest on Federal public lands and may have
13 population level effects. Harvesting bull moose during
14 the rut when bulls are more vulnerable or when bulls
15 and cows are aggregating during the early winter could
16 also disrupt breeding and lead to further excessive
17 harvest.

18
19 Therefore, providing a break during the
20 rut and early winter for bulls is typically recommended
21 to prevent herd disruption during breeding and to
22 protect bulls when they're most vulnerable.

23
24 One alternative that was considered was
25 to extend the bull moose harvest season by creating a
26 one-month winter season on Federal public lands from
27 November 1st through December 1st. This alternative
28 was not chosen because of the low density of the moose
29 populations in Unit 11 combined with susceptibility to
30 fluctuations due to severe winters, predation and
31 hunting pressure.

32
33 So the OSM preliminary conclusion is to
34 oppose Proposal WP18-17.

35
36 Thank you.

37
38 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I guess I
39 could save us a lot of time and energy here. Council
40 Members, what would you like to do because they took no
41 action based on 19.

42
43 MS. KLOSTERMAN: Excuse me, Madame
44 Chair. They actually voted to oppose the season change
45 and they took no action on the permitting portion of
46 the proposal if you're talking about Southcentral.

47
48 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh, yeah.

49
50

1 MR. BASSICH: Madame Chair. I kind of
2 feel like maybe we ought to just defer more to the
3 region down there and let them work out their issues.
4 I understand why we got involved in the last one a
5 little bit, but I really -- this Council has always
6 been a little bit cautious about commenting on other
7 areas' proposals.

8
9 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Right. Well,
10 see, what happens is I'm on the SRC and this is pretty
11 heavy in our region. So I can accept that. I mean we
12 could just take no action. The next one also because
13 it's kind of similar.

14
15 MR. BASSICH: Correct. That will give
16 us more time to talk about some of our other issues
17 too. I just feel a little uncomfortable weighing in on
18 those areas that don't really impact us as importantly.

19
20 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Well, I end
21 up going to the Federal Board meeting, so I get to --
22 this is a crossover thing, then I get to talk to it.
23 For seasons and bag limits, I think I'm okay that we
24 don't take it up. Hearing that, do you want to just do
25 the same with 18?

26
27 MR. BASSICH: Correct. Yeah, I
28 recommend that we just take no action on those two
29 proposals, Madame Chair.

30
31 MR. GLANZ: I agree with Andy on that
32 also.

33
34 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. My
35 home region, but I'm okay.

36
37 MR. BASSICH: That will allow us two
38 more break times.

39
40 (Laughter)

41
42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: There you go.
43 So we can get more done on break, right. Okay. Let's
44 look at this. So that takes care of those.

45
46 MR. WOODRUFF: Did we vote to take.....

47
48 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Do you want
49 to vote to take no action? I would need a motion.

50

1 MR. UMPHENOUR: Actually I'm opposed to
2 both of those myself.

3
4 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Well,
5 Council, it's up to you to tell me what you want to do.

6
7 MR. GLANZ: I believe we deferred it,
8 Madame Chair.

9
10 MR. UMPHENOUR: We didn't vote on
11 deferring. Actually I oppose them. The Department
12 opposes them for conservation reasons. I oppose them
13 too for conservation reasons because those are
14 recovering moose populations in that whole entire area.

15
16 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Are you
17 saying you want to take them up?

18
19 MR. UMPHENOUR: No, they are.

20
21 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: No, listen.
22 Are you saying you want to take this proposal up?

23
24 MR. UMPHENOUR: I don't know as I
25 really want to necessarily take it up, but I don't want
26 to just plain defer it. I think -- you know, I oppose
27 both of them for conservation reasons. That's why I
28 oppose them.

29
30 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Virgil, I
31 need a motion to do that.

32
33 MR. UMPHENOUR: Well, it's on the
34 record that I oppose it anyway.

35
36 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So let the
37 record reflect that Virgil opposes them and he's okay
38 taking no action.

39
40 MR. UMPHENOUR: Whatever you want to
41 do. I don't really care, but I think I would like to
42 -- I want to put it officially on the record that I
43 oppose them.

44
45 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Well,
46 I need.....

47
48 MR. UMPHENOUR: So I guess you need a
49 motion.

50

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: To take
2 action I need a motion.

3
4 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay. Move -- the
5 trouble is I have to go through all of this analysis
6 and stuff when we're really pressed for time.

7
8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Well, why
9 don't you make the motion in the simple way that you
10 spoke it earlier.

11
12 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay. The only
13 procedural.....

14
15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Conservation.

16
17 MR. UMPHENOUR:really way to do
18 this, I move to oppose both Proposals 18-17 and 18-18.

19
20 MR. GLANZ: I'll second. I thought we
21 were supposed to make them all in the positive.

22
23 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, we are.
24 Sorry.

25
26 MR. UMPHENOUR: We're doing this a
27 little bit different. I'll just speak to my motion.
28 If you agree with me, fine. If you don't, just say no.
29 I've got a second, so I'll speak to my motion.

30
31 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Did I get a
32 second?

33
34 MR. GLANZ: Yes, you got a second.

35
36 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

37
38 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay. I'll speak to my
39 motion. The reason I made the motion the Department's
40 comments are that this could cause serious conservation
41 issues or words to that effect. It makes the moose
42 season six months long. It says for antlered bulls.
43 Hell, there's no antlered bulls. Maybe a very, very
44 few after the first of the year. They want to run the
45 season until March.

46
47 I know in Fairbanks -- well, in Unit
48 20A we had big issues when we had these antlerless
49 moose. They were supposed to be shooting bulls, but

50

1 they were shooting lots of pregnant cows. I don't
2 believe in shooting pregnant cows in a moose population
3 that's got conservation issues to begin with. The
4 moose are having a tough enough time during that time
5 of year anyway, making it with the wolves trying to
6 kill them. I know that in most of our areas that the
7 calves -- hell, half of them get killed by wolves in
8 the wintertime in Unit 28 they do I know for a fact.
9

10 Anyway, I'm opposed to it for
11 conservation reasons. The Department is opposed to it
12 for conservation reasons. I'm done.
13

14 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: We're running
15 into a problem here with procedure. It's true, we're
16 supposed to have a positive motion. But you blanketed
17 those, right?
18

19 MR. UMPHENOUR: For both of them. Yes,
20 I lumped both proposals in together. I didn't make a
21 positive motion because I don't want to go through all
22 the whole dang process.
23

24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I understand
25 what he's saying. We should be okay with that, Staff.
26 I mean are we going to fall on our sword.
27

28 MS. WESSELS: You need to go through
29 the process.
30

31 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Well then you
32 need to withdraw your second and make something simple.
33

34 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay. I move to adopt
35 Proposal 18-17.
36

37 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: You want to
38 go through the process?
39

40 MR. UMPHENOUR: I don't really want to
41 go through.....
42

43 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I have a
44 motion on the floor right now.
45

46 MR. UMPHENOUR: The motion that's on
47 the floor someone can call the question on it. I can't
48 do it. I made the motion.
49
50

1 MR. GLANZ: I'll call the question on
2 it to get it moving.

3
4 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. The
5 question has been called for.

6
7 MS. LINNELL: Madame Chair.

8
9 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes.

10
11 MS. LINNELL: This is Karen. Just to
12 help things along I might help you with that wording.
13 Move to take no action on 18-17 permits due to actions
14 taken on WP18-19 and oppose the extension of the season
15 based on Fish and Wildlife comments regarding
16 conservation.

17
18 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That would do
19 it. Did you pull your second on what he just did.

20
21 MR. GLANZ: Yes, I can.

22
23 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, pull
24 it. Now we've got a new motion on the floor. Do you
25 want her to restate it? Hold on. I think it's right
26 here. Take no action on permits due to action taken on
27 WP18-19 and oppose extension of season, would be the
28 motion. Take no action on WP18-18 on permits due to
29 action taken on set of seasons on August 1st to 30th
30 and December 1st to 31st based on.....

31
32 MR. UMPHENOUR: That will do it.

33
34 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Do you want
35 to read that? Make the motion.

36
37 MR. UMPHENOUR: I withdraw my previous
38 motion with the consent of my second.

39
40 MR. GLANZ: Yes, I'll go along with
41 that.

42
43 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay. I move to take
44 no action on Proposal 18-17 on permits due to action
45 taken on WP18-19 and oppose extension of the season
46 based on Fish and Wildlife Service comments on
47 conservation. Take no action on WP18-18 on permits due
48 to action taken on 18-19 and set a season of August 1
49 to September 20 and December 1 to 31 based on Fish and
50

1 Wildlife comments and biological and conservation
2 concerns.

3
4 MR. GLANZ: Once again I'll second
5 that.

6
7 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Do we
8 need anymore discussion.

9
10 MR. UMPHENOUR: I don't think we need
11 any.

12
13 MS. KLOSTERMAN: Madame Chair.

14
15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I think
16 there's a confusion because of 15 and -- this season of
17 December 1st and 31st, we voted to extend it, right, on
18 16.

19
20 MS. KLOSTERMAN: That's a different
21 hunt, Madame Chair.

22
23 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh, okay.
24 I'm just making sure.

25
26 Peppa.

27
28 MS. KENNER: Hi, this is Pippa with
29 OSM. You combined the action that you want to take on
30 WP18-17 and 18. So if you could remove -- because we
31 haven't gone through 18 yet.

32
33 MS. WESSELS: We're discussing now
34 Proposal WP18-17, so we can't make a motion on the same
35 proposal -- on two proposals at the same time.

36
37 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Why?

38
39 MS. KENNER: Because we haven't gone
40 through the process.

41
42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: We didn't go
43 through the process on 17. We're just taking this
44 based on our action on 19.

45
46 MS. KENNER: I think you misunderstand.
47 What I'm trying to say is that when Virgil read the
48 motion, he accidentally included comments for another
49 proposal WP18-18 that you haven't arrived at yet.

50

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: You mean we
2 need another motion?

3
4 MS. KENNER: Excuse me. I've been
5 informed -- I'm sorry. I've been informed it wasn't an
6 accident and I'm off base and I'm sorry.

7
8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. So
9 you're off base.

10
11 MR. WOODRUFF: Question.

12
13 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: The question
14 has been called for. I hope we all understand what
15 we're voting on.

16
17 MS. KLOSTERMAN: Madame Chair. Do we
18 still need to get agency comments though and advisory
19 group comments and public comments on these? We didn't
20 hear from anybody else. Would we still need to hear
21 public testimony before you vote.

22
23 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So I guess in
24 my opinion when you're taking no action other than.....

25
26 MS. KLOSTERMAN: He's opposing part of
27 it though. He's taking no action on half and opposing
28 the other half.

29
30 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So Staff
31 needs to answer that, I can't.

32
33 MS. MAAS: Yes. Yes, you do.

34
35 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

36
37 MR. BASSICH: So much for our two free
38 break times.

39
40 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I know.

41
42 (Laughter)

43
44 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So something
45 simple that I wanted to do turned into something more
46 difficult. That means I have to go through this whole
47 process.

48
49 MR. BASSICH: That's right. Unless we
50

1 were to go to our original motion which was to.....

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Take no
4 action.

5

6 MR. BASSICH:take no action,
7 which we never voted on.

8

9 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: What do you
10 want to do, guys? I want it simple.

11

12 MR. UMPHENOUR: We can go through that
13 fast with that.

14

15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Do you want
16 to do that?

17

18 MR. GLANZ: I think it will be all
19 right.

20

21 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I guess my
22 thought was just to say you oppose that longer season,
23 Virgil, and be done with it.

24

25 MR. UMPHENOUR: Yeah, but we have to go
26 through that if we're going to do that, I guess.

27

28 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Does
29 everybody want to go through two more proposals like
30 that?

31

32 MR. BASSICH: I don't.

33

34 MR. GLANZ: I'm just going by what
35 she's saying.

36

37 MR. BASSICH: Madame Chair.

38

39 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: There's a
40 motion on the floor, unfortunately.

41

42 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, I realize that. I
43 feel like -- I understand what you're trying to do,
44 Virgil. I think it's important that we be able to
45 voice our opinions on conservation, but if it's not
46 being supported by OSM -- did Southcentral support
47 that?

48

49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: He just read

50

1 what they did.

2

3 MS. KLOSTERMAN: Yeah, he just read
4 what they did.

5

6 MR. BASSICH: Okay. So they're
7 basically not supporting it either the way I see it,
8 then.....

9

10 MS. KLOSTERMAN: Well, excuse me. I
11 don't mean to interrupt, but Southcentral did vote to
12 add a winter antlered bull season of December 1st
13 through December 31st.

14

15 MR. BASSICH: And I would have no
16 problem with that one month season for the winter. I
17 guess my point is that the original proposal is
18 probably more than likely not going to go through
19 because it's been identified that there are
20 conservation concerns. So for us to spend all this
21 time just to put our two cents in saying that we
22 believe there's also a conservation concern is not a
23 good use of our time at this point in time.

24

25 That's my personal opinion. If it was
26 something that we were on the fence, but I think
27 there's been enough dialogue there that we all
28 understand that we don't support it because of the
29 conservation concerns.

30

31 Madame Chair. Thanks.

32

33 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay. I'm going to
34 withdraw my motion with the permission of my second. I
35 think we've built a good enough record anyway.

36

37 MR. GLANZ: I'll withdraw my second
38 also.

39

40 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So let the
41 record reflect that there was some discussion on this
42 if I'm asked at the Federal Board, whoever is there for
43 the Council, they can speak to that.

44

45 MR. BASSICH: Madame Chair, we still
46 have a motion on the floor that I made to defer -- or
47 to take no action. It was seconded, but we never voted
48 on it.

49

50

1 MR. UMPHENOUR: I call the question on
2 that.

3
4 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: My
5 understanding was we weren't going to do that, that the
6 second was pulled.

7
8 MR. UMPHENOUR: I called the question
9 on this motion.

10
11 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Take no
12 action based on.....

13
14 MR. UMPHENOUR: Take no action.

15
16 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right. I
17 don't know where the second came from because I thought
18 you had pulled it.

19
20 MR. GLANZ: Second.

21
22 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Because we
23 can't take a motion on top of a motion, which we just
24 did if that's the case. That's not good.

25
26 REPORTER: Madame Chair, can you ask
27 the people on the phone to mute themselves, please.

28
29 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah.
30 Somebody on the teleconference is making a lot of
31 noise. Could they please mute their phone. It's a lot
32 of clicking going on. Thank you. Start 6 you have to
33 push.

34
35 It sounded like your Chair messed up
36 and took two motions on the floor but I didn't realize
37 I did that. I thought that motion was pulled. So we
38 have a motion on the floor and the question has been
39 called for to take no action based on the action on 19.
40 All in favor.

41
42 IN UNISON: Aye.

43
44 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Anyone
45 opposed.

46
47 (No opposing votes)

48
49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, we're
50

1 good. We have changed the agenda so much I have to see
2 where we're at. I think the next thing is 51, modify
3 bear bait restrictions to align with the State
4 regulations.

5

6 MR. UMPHENOUR: What page?

7

8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: The page. I
9 should call that out for you guys. I'm so sorry. 77.

10

11 MS. MAAS: Thank you, Madame Chair.
12 Members of the Council. My name is Lisa Maas and I'm a
13 wildlife biologist in the Office of Subsistence
14 Management. I'll be presenting a summary of the
15 analysis for WP18-51, which can be found on Page 77 of
16 your meeting book.

17

18 WP18-51 was submitted by the Eastern
19 Interior Council and they request that Federal
20 statewide bear baiting restrictions be aligned with
21 State regulations, specifically the use of
22 biodegradable materials.

23

24 The proponent states that current
25 Federal bear baiting restrictions are more restrictive
26 than the State's and do not provide for a Federal
27 subsistence priority. Aligning State and Federal bear
28 baiting restrictions would reduce regulatory complexity
29 and user confusion and allow baiting with items such as
30 dog food, baked goods, et cetera, that have
31 traditionally been used as bear bait by Federally
32 qualified subsistence users and are currently allowed
33 under State regulations.

34

35 Federal regulations for bear baiting
36 were adopted from State regulations in 1990 and have
37 not been modified since. In 2015, the National Park
38 Service published a final rule prohibiting the take of
39 black and brown bears over bait on National Preserves
40 under State regulations. In 2017, the Park Service
41 published a final rule limiting the types of bait that
42 may be used for taking bears under Federal regulations
43 to native fish or wildlife remains with some exceptions
44 in Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve.

45

46 Both black bears and brown bears have
47 been traditionally and contemporarily harvested and
48 utilized across much of Alaska using various methods.
49 However, the occurrence of bear baiting is limited

50

1 within published literature and it is unknown whether
2 this method was rarely practiced or just seldom
3 documented. In some cases the bait ingredients are
4 unknown.

5
6 One alternative considered was to
7 define the term scent lure as no definition currently
8 exists under Federal or State regulations. If not
9 defined, any material or chemical could be used at
10 registered bait stations including non-biodegradable
11 ones. A proposed definition is scent lure means any
12 biodegradable material to which biodegradable scent is
13 applied or infused.

14
15 If this proposal is adopted, Federally
16 qualified subsistence users could use any biodegradable
17 material as well as scent lures at registered bear
18 baiting stations on lands administered by the Fish and
19 Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land Management and the
20 Forest Service. As bear bait is limited to native fish
21 and wildlife remains on National Park Service lands
22 adoption of this proposal would not affect Park Service
23 lands with some exceptions in Wrangell-St. Elias.

24
25 Adoption of this proposal would reduce
26 regulatory complexity and user confusion by aligning
27 the State and Federal regulations. As the requested
28 changes are already permitted under State regulations,
29 no appreciable differences in bear populations,
30 harvest, subsistence uses or habituation to human foods
31 are expected from adopting this proposal.

32
33 The OSM preliminary conclusion is to
34 support WP18-51 with modification to establish a
35 definition for scent lure and to clarify the regulatory
36 language substituting the word wildlife for the terms
37 game, fur animals, and small game as these terms were
38 not defined under Federal regulations, but are included
39 in the Federal definition of wildlife.

40
41 Thank you, Madame Chair.

42
43 I will be happy to take questions.

44
45 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Council
46 Members, any questions.

47
48 MR. GLANZ: I have one. I thought
49 Trump threw all that stuff out.

50

1 MS. MAAS: Through the Chair. That was
2 for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. They
3 overturned.....

4 MR. GLANZ: Oh, Federal, I'm sorry.

5 MS. MAAS: Yeah, they overturned the
6 Fish and Wildlife Service rule but not the Park Service
7 rule.
8

9
10 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any other
11 questions.
12

13 (No comments)
14

15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. A
16 report on Board consultation with tribes and
17 corporations.
18

19 MR. LIND: Madame Chair. Council
20 Members. There was no discussion on that topic during
21 the consultation on September 14th.
22

23 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Agency
24 comments. Alaska Department of Fish and Game.
25

26 MS. PARKER MCNEILL: Thank you, Madame
27 Chair. For the record, my name is Doreen Parker
28 McNeill with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.
29 The Department has no conservation concerns with this
30 proposal. It would align State and Federal
31 regulations. A little additional take of bears is
32 expected. Therefore, we expect no conservation
33 concerns.
34

35 The Department supports this proposal
36 because it reduces regulatory complexity and user
37 confusion by allowing Federally qualified users to bait
38 bears with additional attractants that are currently
39 allowed under State regulations.
40

41 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any
42 questions.
43

44 (No comments)
45

46 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Thanks,
47 Doreen. Any Federal agency comments.
48

49
50

1 (No comments)

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any tribal.

4

5 MS. LINNELL: Madame Chair. This is
6 Karen Linnell.

7

8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead,
9 Karen.

10

11 MS. LINNELL: The scent lures can be
12 maple syrup or molasses and I agree the simplification
13 and including the use of artificial lures is to align
14 with the State's regulation is a good one.

15

16 Thank you.

17

18 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you,
19 Karen. Anyone else. Tribal.

20

21 (No comments)

22

23 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Other
24 Regional Advisory Councils.

25

26 MS. WESSELS: Madame Chair. Katya
27 Wessels for the record. So we got the vote from the
28 other RACs on that proposal. Because it's a statewide
29 proposal that's why I'm reporting on that. According
30 to my records seven of the RACs supported as modified
31 by OSM and Kodiak-Aleutian RAC took no action. Bear
32 baiting is not currently allowed in their region.

33

34 I do not have information on how
35 Southcentral voted.

36

37 Lisa, do you have that?

38

39 MS. MAAS: I do not have that
40 information, but if you said seven Councils supported
41 it, then that would include Southcentral because the
42 only Council that has not met yet is North Slope and
43 this one.

44

45 MS. WESSELS: I'm sorry, it was six
46 Councils supported. So we don't know how Southcentral
47 voted on that proposal because they just began meeting
48 the day before us.

49

50

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: But someone
2 knows.

3
4 MR. MATHEWS: Madame Chair. I just
5 heard from Southcentral and they supported as modified
6 by OSM.

7
8 MS. WESSELS: So seven supported as
9 modified by OSM and one Council took no action.

10
11 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. So
12 Southcentral did support. Next is any Fish and Game
13 Advisory Committee comments.

14
15 (No comments)

16
17 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And SRCs.

18
19 MS. CELLARIUS: Thank you, Madame
20 Chair. For the record, Barbara Cellarius with
21 Wrangell-St. Elias. The Wrangell-St. Elias National
22 Park Subsistence Resource Commission supports WP18-51
23 as modified by the Office of Subsistence Management.
24 Aligning State and Federal definitions of bait will
25 simplify the regulations and make them easier for users
26 to understand.

27
28 The Denali National Park Subsistence
29 Resource Commission does not support WP18-51 as
30 written. The Denali SRC adopted WP18-51 to align State
31 and Federal regulations with the State and amended the
32 proposal to only include natural bait.

33
34 The SRC is concerned about bears
35 getting accustomed to people food. If bears get used
36 to non-natural bait, they are going to be more
37 aggressive to campers. The SRC does not want bears
38 acclimated to human food on Federal lands.

39
40 Although currently non-natural bait is
41 not allowed on NPS lands, it is anticipated that if
42 non-natural bait is legal on Federal lands there will
43 be future pressure to allow non-natural baiting on NPS
44 lands. Other parks have severe problems with bears and
45 Denali is lucky due to management and education efforts
46 that we lack acclimation. It is difficult to reverse
47 acclimation.

48
49 That's the comment from the Denali SRC.

50

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any
2 questions.

3
4 (No comments)

5
6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Just a quick
7 question. With the Federal regulations on National
8 Parklands, this proposal wouldn't affect them, right?

9
10 MR. UMPHENOUR: Except for Wrangell-St.
11 Elias.

12
13 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Except for
14 Wrangell-St. Elias.

15
16 MS. CELLARIUS: Right. But the Denali
17 SRC did take it up and that was their comment.

18
19 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Their
20 concern. Okay.

21
22 MS. CELLARIUS: Yeah, that was their
23 concern.

24
25 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you.
26 Next. Summary of written public comments.

27
28 MS. WESSELS: Katya Wessels for the
29 record. We received three written public comments on
30 Wildlife Proposal WP18-51. The comments received were
31 from Jim Kowalsky, who is with Alaskans for Wildlife,
32 Sharon Alden of Fairbanks and Francis Mauer of
33 Fairbanks as well. All the individuals who commented
34 strongly oppose Proposal WP18-51.

35
36 All of them stated that allowing the
37 use of human-produced foods and scents for bear baiting
38 would first habituate bears to humans. Second,
39 contribute and increase human/bear conflict resulting
40 in serious human injuries and tragic deaths. Third,
41 present a public safety and ethical issue. They also
42 stated that State's baiting regulations are outdated
43 and try to align Federal baiting regulations to State's
44 would lower Federal standards.

45
46 That's the end.

47
48 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any public
49 testimony in the room or on teleconference.

50

1 (No comments)

2

3 MR. UMPHENOUR: Move to adopt Proposal
4 18-51.

5

6 MR. BASSICH: As modified.

7

8 MR. UMPHENOUR: As modified.

9

10 MR. BASSICH: Saved us a lot of time.

11

12 MR. GLANZ: I'll second that one also.

13

14 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

15 Discussion.

16

17 MR. BASSICH: I'm really glad to see
18 this. I think we've spent a lot of time in this RAC
19 talking about this in the past. It's really nice to see
20 OSM come in with a clearly defined recommendation for a
21 modification that will give clarity to some of the
22 terms used. In this case, what is scented bait. I
23 don't see that this is going to be any kind of a
24 conservation concern.

25

26 It's the practice that happens through
27 subsistence and traditional areas in the State for
28 probably forever. It's a very important part of living
29 out in the Bush is to be able to take care of the bears
30 in your area and also to take care of other species in
31 your area through the taking of bears. So I think it's
32 going to benefit the people who live out in the really
33 rural areas.

34

35 I'll refer to as far as the traditional
36 ecological knowledge, everyone knows here that's lived
37 out in villages knows that this is a really key
38 component to living out there, especially in springtime
39 when bears come out of hibernation. It's a very
40 important food source after long winters. So it's
41 going to benefit the people.

42

43 As I stated, I think it's going to
44 benefit subsistence users and I don't see that this is
45 going to unnecessarily restrict other people's uses.
46 I don't buy the argument that it's going to habituate
47 people to human food or human scents or whatever. Most
48 of the bear baiting that takes place happens well away
49 from any communities. There are a lot of State

50

1 regulations out there that you have to register bait
2 stations. There's a lot of regulation involved in
3 doing this. I think it's done very carefully by most
4 people.

5
6 I can understand why a National Park
7 might be concerned because they have visitors, but the
8 vast majority of places where this takes place is out
9 in very rural areas and communities with people who are
10 very keenly aware of what they're doing at the time.
11 So it's done very responsibly.

12
13 I take a little bit affront to
14 projecting what's going to happen by different
15 entities. We don't know what's going to happen when
16 they say that if we allow this, then people are going
17 to be killed by it and all that. I think that's a
18 really poor way to testify. If you have documentation
19 that says that if you do this, this will happen, that's
20 fine, but I really find it a little bit disturbing that
21 a large entity like National Park Service would put
22 that into their comments without strong support on it.

23
24 The point I'm really trying to make
25 here is that it's a very big area. There are many
26 different uses throughout our region in particular.
27 It's very sparsely populated with human beings once you
28 get outside the population centers and that's where the
29 majority of this type of activity takes place and it's
30 done responsibly.

31
32 So I think it's a very important thing
33 that we support and I think it's going to benefit
34 people who live out in rural areas tremendously in the
35 future.

36
37 Thanks, Madame Chair.

38
39 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: More
40 discussion. Bill.

41
42 MR. GLANZ: Question.

43
44 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: This sounds
45 like an advisory committee to me, let's get 'er done.

46
47 (Laughter)

48
49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Does anyone

50

1 have anything else to add. Virgil.

2

3 MR. UMPHENOUR: I agree with everything
4 that Andy said. Our Council has spent an unbelievable
5 amount of time addressing this issue over the last
6 several years. Being a person that bear baits and I
7 know the person sitting next to me bear baits, it's not
8 as easy as people think it is.

9

10 In many of our areas of the state bear
11 baiting is one of the very few ways that you can really
12 have a good opportunity to be successful because of the
13 thick vegetation. When most of the bear baiting takes
14 place is during moose calving and right after moose
15 calving and it takes the pressure off the newborn moose
16 calves a little bit and it disrupts the bears that are
17 targeting the newborn moose calves.

18

19 I know in the one area I hunt they did
20 a two-year study, Fish and Wildlife Service and the
21 State, and determined that between 50 and 70 percent of
22 the newborn moose calves were killed mostly by bears
23 within the first 30 days of their life.

24

25 So disrupting the bears from doing that
26 I think is a very good conservation issue and I fully
27 support the proposal.

28

29 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: This proposal
30 is to really unify regulations of the definitions with
31 the State and make it easier on the user and that's my
32 main thing. We worked on that. This is our proposal.
33 Lisa did a good job. Her and I and a group of us met
34 to talk about how we can make this happen and thank you
35 for all the work you did on that.

36

37 I want to say that's important for
38 people in the field if you're next to Federal land and
39 State land and you've got a bait station and you've got
40 to have different regulations, it's kind of crazy, so
41 this is really good for the user and helps the people
42 out in the woods.

43

44 I also want to elaborate just slightly
45 on some of the things said on habituating bears. This
46 has been going on, bear baiting in my region, and there
47 has been no conflicts of humans and bears. The biggest
48 thing for me, I just started doing it four years ago,
49 is to realize you hike around the mountains 40-plus

50

1 years and you see bears in the hills and that and you
2 don't realize how many there really are until you put
3 up a bait station. There's a lot of bears out there.
4 Once the bait is pulled they disperse.

5
6 The biggest thing I'm here for is
7 making regulations the same and simplify it for the
8 user.

9
10 I think I heard someone call for the
11 question.

12
13 MR. GLANZ: Mr. Glanz did.

14
15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, Mr.
16 Glanz did. All in favor of WP18-51.

17
18 MR. BASSICH: As modified.

19
20 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: As modified.
21 Thank you for that help. All in favor say hi. Not hi,
22 aye.

23
24 (Laughter)

25
26 IN UNISON: Aye.

27
28 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Anyone
29 opposed.

30
31 (No opposing votes)

32
33 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Motion
34 passes.

35
36 MR. BASSICH: Now we can break.

37
38 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Now we want
39 to break. A break has been called for. Give us 10
40 minutes, maybe 15.

41
42 (Off record)

43
44 (On record)

45
46 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: The next
47 proposal is 54.

48
49 MS. MAAS: Thank you, Madame Chair.

50

1 Proposal 54 begins on Page 133 of your meeting book.
2 For the record, my name is Lisa Maas. I'll be
3 presenting a summary of the analysis for Wildlife
4 Proposal 18-54 which again is on Page 133 of your
5 meeting books.

6
7 Proposal WP18-54 was submitted by the
8 Upper Tanana/Fortymile Fish and Game Advisory Committee
9 and requests that the harvest limit be increased from
10 one caribou to up to three caribou and that the Tetlin
11 National Wildlife Refuge Manager, in consultation with
12 Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve
13 Superintendent, Alaska Department of Fish and Game area
14 biologists, and Chairs of the Eastern Interior Alaska
15 Subsistence Regional Advisory Council and Upper
16 Tanana/Fortymile Fish and Game Advisory Committee be
17 delegated authority to set the harvest limit for the to
18 be announced winter caribou season in Unit 12
19 remainder.

20
21 The proponent states that delegating
22 authority to set the caribou harvest limit will promote
23 collaborative management of the hunt, provide for
24 additional subsistence hunting opportunities when the
25 Nelchina Caribou Herd is overabundant and reduce
26 administrative workloads by precluding the need for
27 special action requests. The proponent also states
28 that Mentasta Caribou Herd will be monitored to
29 minimize harvest from this small herd.

30
31 In 2016, the Board approved Special
32 Action WSA16-06 to increase the caribou harvest limit
33 for the 2016/17 winter season from one to two caribou
34 in order to reduce the Nelchina Caribou population and
35 to increase subsistence opportunity. A Special Action
36 Request WSA17-05 was recently submitted requesting the
37 same thing for the 2017-18 winter season. This request
38 is currently in review and will be presented to the
39 Council later in this meeting.

40
41 The Nelchina Caribou primarily occur in
42 Unit 12 remainder during the winter. This herd has
43 exceeded State management objectives since 2010. If
44 herd numbers are not reduced, the range quality and
45 long-term herd stability may be compromised.

46
47 The Mentasta Herd is a small caribou
48 herd that intermingles with Nelchina Caribou in Unit 12
49 remainder during the winter. The current 2017
50

1 population estimate for the Mentasta Herd is 429
2 caribou.

3
4 The Nelchina Herd population is
5 primarily controlled by harvest. Harvest quotas are
6 adjusted annually to achieve management objectives.
7 Ninety-five percent of the harvest from the Nelchina
8 Herd occurs in Unit 13. All caribou harvest from Unit
9 12 remainder occurs in winter under Federal regulations
10 and has ranged from 0 to 71 caribou per year since
11 1998.

12
13 While there is no targeted hunt for
14 Mentasta Caribou because of conservation concerns, some
15 incidental harvest may occur when hunting for Nelchina
16 Caribou. One alternative considered was to defer this
17 proposal until an adequate number of Mentasta Caribou
18 are collared for monitoring and the Mentasta Caribou
19 Management Plan is reviewed.

20
21 Another alternative considered was only
22 authorizing a harvest limit of up to two caribou and
23 limiting the designated hunter possession limit to no
24 more than four caribou.

25
26 Adopting this proposal would increase
27 management flexibility and the ability to quickly
28 respond to changing conditions such as the
29 overabundance of Nelchina Caribou, which is currently
30 posing conservation concerns. It would also provide
31 additional harvest opportunity for Federally qualified
32 subsistence users when the Nelchina Herd exceeds State
33 management objectives. While some incidental take of
34 Mentasta Caribou may occur, the likelihood of this is
35 small.

36
37 The OSM preliminary conclusion is to
38 support Proposal WP18-54 with modification to delegate
39 authority to set hunt parameters via a delegation of
40 authority letter only and to clarify that season dates
41 and harvest limits will be announced prior to any
42 season opening.

43
44 Thank you, Madame Chair.

45
46 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Questions,
47 board members.

48
49 (No comments)

50

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I have a
2 quick question. How does that change anything doing it
3 by letter?

4
5 MS. MAAS: Thanks, Madame Chair.
6 That's mostly just an administrative housekeeping
7 thing. Right now when you look at the regulation
8 booklet there's all that extra writing about what the
9 delegated authority is and so it's removing that from
10 the regulation booklet, putting in a delegation of
11 authority letter. It doesn't change anything
12 functionally. It's just kind of cleaning up the handy
13 dandy.

14
15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So it takes
16 it out of the handy dandy.

17
18 MS. MAAS: Yeah, and then just puts it
19 in a letter and then it's listed in the back of the
20 book.

21
22 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. And
23 that's not to confuse the user, right?

24
25 MS. MAAS: Yeah, the goal is that it's
26 a cleaner regulation booklet. It's kind of across the
27 board thing. Every time we have the opportunity to do
28 that OSM has been removing it from the handy dandy and
29 putting it in delegation of authority letters.

30
31 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: You said it's
32 in the back of the book?

33
34 MS. MAAS: The back of the book
35 contains the list of all the delegated authorities.

36
37 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I'm in the
38 wrong book.

39
40 MS. MAAS: It starts on Page 145 in the
41 Federal regulation book.

42
43 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Thank
44 you. Any other questions.

45
46 (No comments)

47
48 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right.
49 Moving on. A report from consultation with tribes and
50

1 corporations.

2

3 MR. LIND: Madame Chair. Council
4 Members. Orville Lind, Native Liaison, OSM. There was
5 no discussion on this topic on consultation.

6

7 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Orville, I
8 have a quick question. Do you meet by teleconference
9 and no one comes on?

10

11 MR. LIND: My process to engage
12 consultation with tribes is to invite them to attend
13 the consultation session by telephone or in person. If
14 you remember, I did leave a message and talked to some
15 of the Council Members, but also send out letters of
16 invite.

17

18 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Do you have
19 any reason why this isn't happening?

20

21 MR. LIND: For this term I believe, as
22 many tribes stated, they were going to be out moose
23 hunting.

24

25 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh, you had
26 it during moose season? Not a good idea.

27

28 MR. LIND: September 14th. That is
29 understood.

30

31 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Not a good
32 idea. Yeah, okay. That explains it to me. Thank you.

33

34 MR. LIND: Thank you.

35

36 MR. WOODRUFF: You have to change that.

37

38 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, you
39 need to change that. That's not good. You probably
40 have some silly thing that you've got to go by.

41

42 MR. LIND: Exactly, Madame Chair. The
43 timeframe for the actual Regional Advisory Council
44 meetings, as you know, were staged to where we had to
45 immediately set up tribal consultation before the
46 Council meetings, which is per policy.

47

48 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: The policies
49 need to be a little flexible. You need to come up with

50

1 a different system because if they can't contribute,
2 that's kind of a bummer. Unless they feel like they're
3 contributing somewhere else and maybe this is extra.

4
5 MR. LIND: The other suggestion made by
6 tribes is again they have another opportunity at the
7 public hearing that's conducted and again at the
8 Regional Advisory Council level.

9
10 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So you have
11 to wrestle your time. I'd rather be moose hunting also.

12
13 MR. LIND: Thank you.

14
15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you.
16 Next. Agency comments. ADF&G. Anyone going to speak
17 to this.

18
19 MS. PARKER MCNEILL: Thank you, Madame
20 Chair. My name is Doreen Parker McNeill and I was
21 hoping that someone on the telephone was going to speak
22 to this one.

23
24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Should we
25 check again?

26
27 MS. PARKER MCNEILL: Please do.

28
29 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Let's hope
30 they're there. Is anyone on the telephone going to
31 speak to this for ADF&G?

32
33 MR. ROBBINS: Madame Chair. This is
34 Frank Robbins again. I can speak to it.

35
36 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okie-dokie.

37
38 Go ahead.

39
40 MR. ROBBINS: For the record, this is
41 Frank Robbins. I'm the area biologist for the State in
42 Glennallen. Even though there currently is an
43 opportunity to harvest additional Nelchina Caribou, the
44 timing of migration and distribution of the herd will
45 be difficult to predict.

46
47 Additionally, the Mentasta Caribou Herd
48 is small compared to the Nelchina Herd and more
49 susceptible to unsustainable harvest if not properly

50

1 monitored. The Tetlin Refuge has been radio tracking
2 to determine if unacceptable number of Mentasta Caribou
3 are mixed with the Nelchina herd on the refuge to allow
4 for the hunt to occur. However, there are currently
5 very few radio collars that are active, which decreases
6 the effectiveness of these monitoring flights.

7
8 If this hunt is to be implemented,
9 additional radio collars should be deployed by Tetlin
10 Refuge on Mentasta Caribou to allow for adequate herd
11 distribution monitoring by the Tetlin Refuge during the
12 hunting season.

13
14 The Department is opposed to this
15 proposal. The Mentasta Herd would be susceptible to
16 overharvest under this regulation and this regulation
17 could adversely effect the Nelchina Herd as the herd
18 size changes. Additionally, there is insufficient
19 consultation with advisory committees in Unit 13 such
20 as Paxson, Copper River, Cantwell and Tok Cutoff, to
21 adequately assess potential public concerns of other
22 communities that are affected by the status of the
23 Nelchina Herd.

24
25 If this proposal is passed, the
26 Department recommends additional collars to be deployed
27 on Mentasta Herd animals prior to allowing a bag limit
28 of more than one caribou during this hunt to minimize
29 the likelihood of unsustainable harvest of the Mentasta
30 Herd.

31
32 Furthermore, the Department recommends
33 that additional advisory committees, Paxson, Copper
34 River, Cantwell, Tok Cutoff, be consulted when
35 considering an opening.

36
37 Thank you.

38
39 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Questions.
40 Andy.

41
42 MR. BASSICH: Yes. For the Department,
43 do you have plans to add additional collars to the
44 herd?

45
46 MR. ROBBINS: We've been speaking with
47 the Wrangell-St.Elias National Park biologist, Judy
48 Putera, about augmenting the number of collars. We've
49 assisted Judy in the past with captures and collaring
50

1 Mentasta Caribou and it's actually one of our goals
2 this coming -- or next fall to deploy as many collars
3 as possible on Mentasta Caribou, yes.

4
5 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any other
6 questions.

7
8 (No comments)

9
10 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Frank, I have
11 one.

12
13 MR. ROBBINS: Okay.

14
15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Is that
16 coming from your office, what you just read?

17
18 MR. ROBBINS: Well, this is what I'll
19 say. We at this office oftentimes get fixated on
20 Nelchina Caribou. We are over objective. Our
21 objective is 35,000-40,000 Nelchina Caribou. During
22 the last photo census it was two summers ago we counted
23 49,550 caribou in the photographs. We've been trying
24 to marshal the troops and issue as many permits as
25 possible and harvest as many caribou as possible.

26
27 Last fall, last hunting season, the
28 caribou actually obliged us and were near points of
29 access, roads and highways, that allowed for a record
30 harvest. We harvested over 6,000 caribou last year.
31 This year they didn't cooperate as well. We're about a
32 harvest of 4,300 right now. We were hoping for 6,000
33 again.

34
35 We would like to harvest more
36 Nelchinas. We're concerned about habitat. Having said
37 that, I don't think that we currently have enough radio
38 collars to really assess the mixing between Nelchinas
39 and Mentastas. I would like more harvest of Nelchina
40 Caribou, but I do think that there's a chance we could
41 unintentionally harvest too many Mentastas.

42
43 To answer your question I wrote an
44 analysis. This isn't my complete analysis. This was
45 sort of a group effort.

46
47 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

48
49 Andy.

50

1 MR. BASSICH: Thank you, Frank. Is
2 there a history of these two herds mixing at any time
3 for biological reasons?
4

5 MR. ROBBINS: It is during the winter.
6 Actually different times of the year. In the past we
7 tried to collar Mentastas in the summer when most of
8 the Nelchinas are in the central portion of Unit 13 and
9 most of the Mentastas are in Unit 11. However, it's
10 the nature of caribou. It's impossible to predict
11 their movements. There were a lot of Nelchina Caribou
12 in Unit 11 during the summer this year, so it would
13 have been difficult to collar Mentastas and be
14 confident that we were collaring only Mentastas.
15

16 The periods when you would anticipate
17 some mixing would be in the spring when the Nelchina
18 migrate back to Unit 13 and in the fall when the
19 Nelchinas are migrating through Unit 11 and towards
20 Unit 12.
21

22 MR. BASSICH: So I guess what I was
23 asking, Franks, or trying to ask, I didn't word it very
24 well, are these two herds genetically linked? Do they
25 regularly share genetics back and forth?
26

27 MR. ROBBINS: There's some research to
28 support that the Mentasta Herd is a distinct herd. One
29 paper in particular suggests that the bulls can move
30 around, but the Mentasta females specifically show some
31 fidelity to the Wrangell Mountains in Unit 11. There
32 are a couple of papers that suggest that they are a
33 distinct herd.
34

35 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any other
36 questions.
37

38 (No comments)
39

40 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I have a
41 question. I attended a meeting with the Park Service
42 and the Fish and Wildlife Service and Todd was online
43 at that meeting. Todd -- say his name.
44

45 MR. ROBBINS: Rinaldi.
46

47 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Rinaldi.
48 Were you online, Frank, too?
49
50

1 MR. ROBBINS: I was actually in the
2 field doing caribou comps so I missed that meeting.

3
4 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I just wanted
5 to say too to the committee I served on the Tok Cutoff
6 Advisory Committee from '79 to '93 before I was on the
7 Board of Game and I'd attend the meetings. The
8 Mentasta Caribou has always been talked about and they
9 had plenty of collars in the past. They had an
10 agreement, just as it says in this proposal, that they
11 meet and talk about if it's going to be open and there
12 has been a couple years it wasn't open because of the
13 mixing. So just FYI stuff that happens.

14
15 Barbara came up. She must have
16 something to add.

17
18 MS. CELLARIUS: I figured you would be
19 getting to Federal agencies soon.

20
21 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh, so you
22 planned ahead. That's awesome.

23
24 (Laughter)

25
26 MS. CELLARIUS: And I did want to
27 respond to one of the things that came up.

28
29 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. That's
30 the next one on the agenda, Federal comments.

31
32 MS. CELLARIUS: This is Barbara
33 Cellarius. I'm the subsistence coordinator and
34 cultural anthropologist for Wrangell-St. Elias. Judy
35 Putera, their wildlife biologist, went to the
36 Southcentral meeting this week, so we had to split our
37 time. As Sue mentioned, we have been trying to get
38 folks together to talk about caribou herds.

39
40 Currently we have very few collars out
41 on the Mentasta Herd. It's not for lack of trying.
42 We've not been able to do the captures the last couple
43 of years because we haven't had the drugs that are used
44 for the mobilization. So we have collars that we're
45 trying to get put out and that is one of our
46 priorities.

47
48 But we don't support the proposal as it
49 is written. We are wanting to take another look at
50

Page 111

1 this management plan that is 20 years old. We have
2 concerns with the number of collars that are out about
3 the ability to do the monitoring that's sort of
4 described in the management of the hunt to make sure
5 that there aren't Mentastas harvested.

6
7 I have some other notes if people have
8 questions, but that's kind of the gist of it. Lisa
9 talked about some kind of alternatives that we had
10 suggested as part of the analysis process deferring or
11 a lower number of harvest until we can get some of the
12 issues sorted out with the collars. And looking at the
13 plan again I think would be a good thing to do because
14 it's been 20 years.

15
16 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I have one.
17 With the way the proposal is written it gives
18 delegation authority and there could possibly be that
19 people don't agree to open it. Doesn't that protect
20 it? Wouldn't the Park Service see that as a
21 protection?

22
23 MS. CELLARIUS: Well, there is
24 consultation that is built into the delegation of
25 authority. We still have concerns about a harvest
26 limit of up to three.

27
28 MS. MAAS: Through the Chair. This is
29 Lisa Maas. If I could just kind of add and clarify
30 that. You're exactly right. The point of delegating
31 authority is to build in that in-season flexibility and
32 collaboration across agencies. So just because up to
33 three is on the books, I would assume if you're talking
34 to area biologists and the Park Service and everyone
35 agrees to just announce the season for one, then you're
36 just going to announce it for one.

37
38 It doesn't have.....

39
40 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Or no season
41 at all.

42
43 MS. MAAS: Right. Well, they already
44 have authority to open or close a season. This is just
45 authority to set the harvest limit. So just because
46 they have the ability to set the harvest limit for
47 three doesn't mean it will be three. It also precludes
48 that need for special action request. For example, if
49 they're able to collar a sufficient number of Mentasta

50

1 Caribou, then this is already in place. That we don't
2 have to do another special action request. It just
3 builds in that flexibility.

4
5 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Andy.

6
7 MR. BASSICH: When these collaborations
8 take place between agencies, I see here St. Elias,
9 Department of Fish and Game, Fortymile Chair, Eastern
10 Chair, how does that work as far as a mechanism? Does
11 it have to be full consensus by everyone or is it a
12 weighted vote on whether to establish a certain quota
13 or certain hunt?

14
15 MS. MAAS: Through the Chair. I think,
16 Sue, you're listed as a person to consult with and I
17 know Shawn might come up and have a better answer
18 because they're actually the ones doing it.

19
20 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: We can have
21 him come up now if you like, Shawn. I usually get a
22 call from the Refuge. With the Nelchinas I usually get
23 a call. Sometimes they say we're just doing it and
24 then I agree. We would like to do this and then I
25 agree.

26
27 MR. BASSICH: I guess the concern that
28 I would have is that if just one or two entities that
29 have maybe a little stronger voice than the coalition
30 of groups being asked decide that they want to do
31 something, is there a way for one or two other entities
32 to veto that and stop a hunt that they might have
33 concerns about? That's what I'm getting to.

34
35 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: We'll ask
36 Shawn.

37
38 MR. BAYLESS: Madame Chair. For the
39 record, I'm Shawn Bayless, Refuge Manager for Tetlin
40 Refuge. So I don't forget, Mr. Bassich, I'll answer
41 that question. The way I see it as a collaborative
42 approach, an adaptive approach to management, would be
43 that all parties involved, including what was
44 mentioned, Frank mentioned it, the other ACs who have a
45 stake in the Nelchina Herd and that was a shortcoming
46 that I don't think we thought of, but that was brought
47 up and it's a good point.

48
49 So everybody would have a say in it and
50

1 it would have to be a unanimous decision, the harvest
2 limit. Every year would have to be unanimously
3 accepted by all. That's my vision of what this would
4 be. I can't speak for the others, but I'm speaking for
5 myself as the manager for Tetlin. That's how I see it
6 happening.

7
8 MR. BASSICH: That's your
9 interpretation of how the procedure would take place.

10
11 MR. BAYLESS: Yes, sir.

12
13 MR. BASSICH: But there's nothing
14 written down that states how this mechanism is to be in
15 operation.

16
17 MR. BAYLESS: Not right now. We're
18 still kind of in the development stages of this thing.
19 There could be.

20
21 MR. BASSICH: I'm sure that it's
22 probably working just fine, but I have seen committees
23 where there's one or two entities that carry a big
24 stick and everybody else pretty much has to cotton to
25 whatever they say and I'd be concerned about that if
26 there was a particular group in an area that wanted
27 protection for the Mentasta Herd and weren't going to
28 be heard.

29
30 MR. BAYLESS: Well, we all in my
31 opinion have an equal stake in this the way I see it.
32 The way I look at my job as really the only Federal
33 manager in the Upper Tanana is I represent the Upper
34 Tanana subsistence users in this regard. So I'm going
35 to advocate on their behalf, but of course we all have
36 our own constituents who we advocate for, but I think
37 we're all big kids. I think we can come to an
38 agreement every year.

39
40 Lisa is exactly right. Up to three
41 does not mean three every year. It could be zero if
42 there's a conservation concern for either or both
43 herds.

44
45 That could very well be the case in the
46 future.

47
48 If I may, I've got a couple other
49 comments I'd like to make.

50

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: This is your
2 time.

3
4 MR. BAYLESS: This is my time. The
5 mixing ratio that Frank mentioned right now the way it
6 stands when the caribou are moving through the Refuge,
7 I fly once or twice a week and I listen for all the
8 caribou. I enumerate which ones I hear and how many I
9 hear. If the mixing ratio gets down to 20 Nelchinas to
10 one Mentasta, then I close the season until that mixing
11 ratio goes back up.

12
13 That was predicated on many more
14 collars than are currently out there. There's only
15 eight right now operating. As far as I know there's
16 only eight operating for the Mentastas. The Nelchinas
17 have -- Frank, how many do the Nelchinas have, 100?

18
19 MR. ROBBINS: Right. Over 100
20 currently.

21
22 MR. BAYLESS: Over 100 currently. So
23 my idea was -- and I'm really speaking not only for
24 this because I did not propose this. This was the Upper
25 Tanana Forty, the AC, but the one you're going to talk
26 to me about tomorrow is the special action to allow up
27 to two harvested.

28
29 My thought was is we don't have enough
30 Mentasta collars. Why can't we increase that mixing
31 ratio from 20 to 40. If we get to 40 to one we close
32 the season. I don't know what the ideal number is.
33 It's usually a certain percentage of the population.
34 How many is that, Frank?

35
36 MR. ROBBINS: You're going to make me
37 do math?

38
39 (Laughter)

40
41 MR. BAYLESS: Yeah, well, if you can.
42 Five percent, is that right?

43
44 MR. ROBBINS: Yeah, probably about
45 right.

46
47 MR. BAYLESS: So five percent of 400 is
48 what?

49
50

1 MR. ROBBINS: Twenty.

2
3 MR. BAYLESS: So we have eight collars
4 now. If we even bump it up to 50 to one, that would
5 provide some protection for the Mentasta Herd. I'm not
6 a statistician, I'm just a stupid manager, but that
7 would provide some level of protection to the Mentasta
8 Herd, similar to what they had when they had 20 or 30
9 collars out there. Correct me if I'm wrong, Frank.

10
11 MR. ROBBINS: Yeah, you're right. The
12 current population estimates for Mentastas is about
13 400. So I mean we could come up with a number what
14 would be a sufficient number of animals to collar to
15 have at least a better idea of where the herd is and
16 whether it's mixing with Nelchinas. It is a priority
17 of our office and Wrangell-St. Elias National Park to
18 deploy as many collars as we can to address the lack of
19 information we're currently getting.

20
21 MR. BAYLESS: So that's one thought I
22 had that you may want to consider. And unrelated to
23 this but to the special action request that we
24 submitted this year, before I even submitted that and
25 wrote it up I talked to all the players, the Park
26 Service, Frank, Jeff, the area biologist. I think I
27 talked to Sue and the AC.

28
29 At that time the Park Service had some
30 concerns obviously because of this issue and their way
31 around it was to say, okay, we'll support this as long
32 as the second caribou is a bull. So only bulls. We
33 could even make it to where we could only shoot two
34 bulls regardless. The problem is their antlers are
35 dropped. So unless you're really close and you know
36 what you're looking at, you could shoot a cow and there
37 could be some accidental cow harvests there.

38
39 Biologically speaking, and I think my
40 biologist would probably back me up. There's not an
41 issue with that, but that was a concern from the Park
42 Service and we agreed to make that caveat for the
43 special action request. The same thing could be done
44 here for this one.

45
46 I'll repeat what the chairman of the AC
47 last night -- we had a hearing in Tok about -- it was a
48 public hearing process where the special action
49 request. He made a good comment. He said they -- he's

50

1 been here for a long time. I've only been there for
2 four years. He was born and raised. But they've had
3 an issue with collars on the Mentasta Herd for a long
4 time. He's been hearing about it for 10 years and this
5 has affected the subsistence harvest allowance for the
6 Upper Tanana people for a long time.

7
8 You were there, Madame Chair. He
9 seemed a little bit tired of hearing about this and
10 nothing being done to address that. So I think that's
11 what's going on. I'm glad to hear that the State is on
12 board now. We've been on board. We'll help them out
13 as much as we can to get some more collars out there.
14 Let's just do something. Even if it's wrong, let's get
15 it done.

16
17 With that, that's about all I have.

18
19 I'm happy to answer any more questions.

20
21 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: My quick
22 question is that ratio of mixing is that part of the --
23 or is that just something else?

24
25 MR. BAYLESS: Yes, ma'am. That's part
26 of the agreement we have with the Park Service now,
27 protect the Mentasta Herd. That was establish probably
28 10 years ago. A long time ago.

29
30 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So 20 to 1 is
31 in relation.....

32
33 MR. BAYLESS: That was the agreed upon
34 mixing ratio. So if the mixing ratio -- if we heard 20
35 to 1, 20 Nelchinas to 1 Mentasta, there's too many
36 Mentastas in the bunch, we close the season.

37
38 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: But the ratio
39 is in wording period, 20 to 1.

40
41 MR. BAYLESS: That's correct.

42
43 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I see some
44 shaking heads no behind you.

45
46 MR. BAYLESS: Are you shaking your
47 head?

48
49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: No, not Lisa.

50

1 (Laughter)

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: She's not
4 guilty. There's some whispering behind. Barbara was
5 the one shaking her head. That ratio 20 to 1 is not on
6 regulation?

7

8 MR. BAYLESS: No, it's not regulation.

9

10 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I mean
11 written down somewhere that you guys agree on.

12

13 MR. BAYLESS: Correct.

14

15 MS. CELLARIUS: This is Barbara
16 Cellarius. The mixing ratio is not in the management
17 plan. I'm not sure where that number came from.

18

19 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That number
20 was a long time ago. Lief knows about it. I mean I
21 was there too when that happened.

22

23 MS. CELLARIUS: It might be written
24 down somewhere, but it's not written down in the
25 management plan. Judy gave me some notes about that.
26 So the plan doesn't mention it. She doesn't know where
27 it came from.

28

29 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: It's
30 somewhere I know.

31

32 MR. BAYLESS: It's in our -- it's in
33 our management.....

34

35 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Because I
36 remember it from 30 years ago.

37

38 MS. MAAS: Through the Chair. I've
39 definitely seen that ratio in like past proposals and
40 the Federal Subsistence Board has heard that ratio.
41 All I'm saying is that I agree with you. It's somehow
42 been around for 10 years because I read it. When I was
43 doing the regulatory history, I've seen it in past
44 analyses.

45

46 MR. BAYLESS: We have a hunt management
47 plan. It's in our hunt management plan. I can share
48 that with Judy.

49

50

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So do you
2 know if there's anything about cow take in that plan?

3
4 MR. BAYLESS: Cow tags?

5
6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Taking a cow.

7
8 MR. BAYLESS: Oh. It's usually been --
9 well, up until just recently, three or four years ago,
10 it's almost always been a bulls only. Since that
11 Nelchina Herd has really increased over the past five
12 or ten years, the emphasis has been to actually shoot
13 cows because they want to reduce the herd size.

14
15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And that's
16 your delegation of authority. It is now I mean.

17
18 MR. BAYLESS: In collaboration with the
19 others, that's correct.

20
21 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Any
22 other questions. Donald.

23
24 MR. WOODRUFF: The way I see this is it
25 just gives you another tool in your toolbox to try to
26 keep the caribou from crashing and then you have 10 or
27 15 or 20 or 30 or 40 years to try to build them back.

28
29 MR. BAYLESS: We're just doing our
30 part, sir. I mean it's Frank's herd. If he says it's
31 over objective, we'll do what we can. But we're a
32 small community. You know, we only shoot on average 25
33 to 28 caribou a year, that's it, under the current
34 regulation. Could we shoot more? Sure.

35
36 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Agency
37 comments under Federal. Do you have a Federal agency
38 comment?

39
40 MR. BERG: Madame Chair and the
41 Committee. I just wanted to add a couple of things.

42
43 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: This is Nathan
44 Berg.

45
46 MR. BERG: Oh, this is Nathan Berg.
47 I'm the wildlife biologist at Tetlin Wildlife Refuge.
48 There is a genetics paper. I've got this one here and I
49 just wanted to read from it on the Mentasta and the

50

1 Nelchina Caribou Herd.

2

3

4 It says although the herds were
5 considered discreet because females calves in separate
6 regions, individual movements and breeding, range
7 overlap in some years provided opportunity for male
8 mediated gene flow. At the end of the abstract it says
9 although the Mentasta/Nelchina Herds exhibit distinct
10 population dynamics and physical characteristics, they
11 demonstrate evidence of gene flow and thus function as
12 a genetic metapopulation.

12

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I just wanted to mention too that, you know, with approximately 30,000 Nelchina Caribou moving through the Refuge and even if all the Mentasta has moved through the Refuge, that would be an approximate mixing ratio of 60 to 1. Since I've been there in 2010 we've been doing flights to look at the mixing ratio and we've never been out of range. I've never experienced that since we've been there. So I just feel that's important that you guys know that as well.

And like Shawn mentioned before, our range of harvest is zero to 71 caribou with an average of 28 total harvest of caribou in the hunt.

Thank you.

MR. UMPHENOUR: Question.

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: You might have a question. What are you reading from? What's it called?

MR. BERG: This is an article from a Journal of Mammalogy 2012, Range Overlap and Individual Movements During Breeding Season Influence Genetic Relationships of Caribou Herds in Southcentral Alaska.

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you.

Virgil.

MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay. So that leads me to this question. Can you identify the two herds genetically?

MR. BERG: The mitochondrial DNA, which is the female DNA, is different, but there is gene flow

Page 120

1 coming from the males. The males -- the Nelchinas and
2 the Mentastas overlap in their migration when they're
3 moving to their wintering grounds and sometimes that's
4 when they're breeding too, so there is male mediated
5 gene flow. But, yes, there is difference, but, yes,
6 they also function as a metapopulation.

7
8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So they can
9 be half-breeds.

10
11 MR. UMPHENOUR: Thank you.

12
13 MR. BASSICH: Thank you for that
14 information. I mean it just seems common sense to me.
15 I'm not biologist, I'm not statistician, but if you
16 just live out there and you see the way animals mix and
17 move, they've got to be able to get different gene
18 pools eventually, otherwise they would become real
19 strange creatures. Let's put it that way.

20
21 I think we're going to see the same
22 thing with the Nelchina and the Fortymile Herd. I
23 think the Porcupine and the Fortymile Herd mix from
24 time to time. We're certainly going to see it with the
25 Fortymile and what we call the White Mountain Herd,
26 which has always been in recent times called separate
27 herds, but probably not. We all have to remember that
28 we've only really been looking at these animals for a
29 very short period of time in history, human history.

30
31 So that's the reason why I wanted to
32 pull that up because, yeah, there may be a separate
33 herd, maybe they're identifiable specifically, but
34 nature has a way of making sure it takes care of itself
35 genetically and I'm sure it has in the past and I'm
36 sure we're coming up at a point in time where the
37 Nelchina Herd is growing so much that it needs to
38 overlap and do its thing.

39
40 I'm in support of harvest.

41
42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: We need to go
43 through the rest of these. (Indiscernible -- no
44 microphone)

45
46 REPORTER: Microphone.

47
48 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Boy, you let
49 us know, don't you. All right.

50

1 (Laughter)

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Any
4 tribal comments. That would be your time. I know it's
5 confusing, Jamie, but you're here, yeah.

6

7 MS. MARUNDE: I think we got a little
8 bit confused on the 18-54 and the special action.

9

10 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes.

11

12 MS. MARUNDE: So that might be why we
13 didn't call in to the different.....

14

15 REPORTER: Can you identify yourself,
16 please.

17

18 MS. MARUNDE: Yeah, this is Jamie
19 Marunde.....

20

21 REPORTER: And back off the mic.

22

23 MS. MARUNDE: Okay. Jamie Marunde and
24 I'm calling with North -- or I'm here with Northway
25 Village Council. So we did call in on the special
26 action, but we didn't call in on 18-54 for
27 consultation, so we were a little confused there.
28 We're okay with two. Three is to us a little bit
29 excessive.

30

31 One of the things that was a concern to
32 us is just finding overall information. So sitting
33 back here and listening to all of you guys talk about
34 it it makes me feel a little bit better because we were
35 also confused. It seems like there's a lack of agreed
36 upon information across the board and also that
37 potentially there's an outdated plan, so that's always
38 a concern. You know, we want to have things done right
39 and we want to make sure things are going the way they
40 should be.

41

42 We would also like to be added to the
43 delegated authority list. The reason for that is
44 because we live inside the Refuge or at the front of
45 the Refuge. Our Native lands are at the front of one
46 of the main access points. So if this is going to be
47 affecting our livelihood, our trapping, everything else
48 that we're doing, we think that we should be a party to
49 that or on the list of delegated authority.

50

1 So that's all that I have for you guys.

2
3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any questions
4 of Jamie.

5
6 Andy.

7
8 MR. BASSICH: How would that happen as
9 far as being a part of that coalition or that group of
10 people that helps set these bag limits? What's the
11 procedures for that?

12
13 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Are you
14 asking Jamie or.....

15
16 MR. BASSICH: In general. What would
17 it take right now for their tribal.....

18
19 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh, for
20 procedurally to add?

21
22 MR. BASSICH: To add them into the.....

23
24 MS. MAAS: Through the Chair. This is
25 Lisa Maas. You could support this with modification to
26 add Northway Tribal.....

27
28 MS. MARUNDE: Village Council.

29
30 MS. MAAS: Village Council to the
31 delegated authority. So I mean just that long list of
32 in consultation with Northway Village Council would be
33 added to that.

34
35 MR. BASSICH: Thank you.

36
37 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That makes me
38 want to question the Fish and Game now because they
39 said -- you know, in the past, I never saw this as an
40 issue with the other councils in Southcentral -- not
41 councils but ACs. This is something new that I've
42 heard that they want to have -- the Paxson AC, the Tok
43 Cutoff AC and I think it's the Glennallen or Copper
44 Basin AC I think it is, all included in the
45 consultation also. So I would ask them.

46
47 But you guys are asking for Northway.

48
49 MS. MARUNDE: Yeah, we're asking for
50

1 Northway specifically because we live there.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Right. Do
4 you feel like the Refuge comes into the village and
5 talks to you guys enough that there is some type of
6 dialogue going on?

7

8 MS. MARUNDE: You know, that's -- we've
9 had a long rough history is really how that goes.
10 There's a lot that we could do to improve. I don't
11 think that we have good relations, so that's why we
12 want to be a party to this.

13

14 Another issue is that our local
15 advisory board because of different politics and
16 different situation, we're a region that's 60 percent
17 Native and there are no Native people on that board.
18 Most of those village seats are empty. So there's some
19 dynamics in the region that are a little bit difficult.
20 So different things that happen regarding the Refuge
21 sometimes we're told about things, sometimes we're told
22 after the fact. It's not consistent and it's something
23 we've all got to work on.

24

25 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I will say
26 this. Having been around for 40 years with that AC and
27 watching that Upper Tanana Fortymile Advisory
28 Committee, it's hard to get participation from the
29 villages. It's just recent that there's three seats
30 vacant, but there were people -- and the people have to
31 be appointed by their village. The AC can't go out in
32 the village and have election. They have to provide
33 that person to the AC and it's not happening for some
34 reason. I don't know.....

35

36 MS. MARUNDE: In response to that, we
37 do have, like I said, a lot of interesting issues. A
38 good example of that would be we are having some
39 fishing issues in our region, so we used to fish
40 whitefish. I was born and raised in what they call
41 fish camp. We're all backed up there so we aren't
42 getting fish. We found a new place to fish and the
43 Upper Tanana Fortymile Advisory Board put in a proposal
44 to limit and cut off our fishing there because they
45 wanted it for other reasons that didn't relate to
46 fishing.

47

48 So it's just like -- and then we were
49 never talked to about it. They know we were all

50

1 fishing. Our whole village is there. I mean there's
2 some ongoing things here. I don't know what the place
3 is to talk about that, but.....

4
5 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: It would be
6 with the State because it's a State AC.

7
8 MS. MARUNDE: Yeah. I'm just
9 responding to your question. If it was easy, we would
10 all be there. If it was a good process and we were
11 having good conversations and we're getting overtalked
12 or put into hard situations, those seats would be
13 filled. So it's a difficult situation.

14
15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any other
16 questions.

17
18 Donald.

19
20 MR. WOODRUFF: How does that.....

21
22 REPORTER: Microphone, please.

23
24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Mics. We're
25 all guilty.

26
27 MR. WOODRUFF: I was at the Fortymile
28 AC meeting and I didn't see very much village
29 participation the last meeting, two weeks ago.

30
31 MS. MARUNDE: Yeah, again, we're having
32 difficulties participating because when we do show up
33 and we do talk to everybody, we're just kind of
34 overtalked. You know, a great example is yesterday at
35 the special action meeting somebody from the Fortymile
36 Upper Tanana Advisory Board was talking about
37 consulting in their proposal for the special action and
38 they listed all our villages. Well, the villages
39 weren't there. Yeah, the board represents the
40 community, but we were never talked to.

41
42 So it's difficult. It really is.
43 We're not making this up. It's hard to go there when a
44 lot of the people have a sport hunting -- a great deal
45 of those members have a sport hunting affiliation.

46
47 The other issue is that with our
48 community we have a lower income. We're almost like 70
49 percent unemployment. What's our education level.

50

1 We're so rough on kids graduating it's not even funny.
2 So when we go into those places, it's difficult for
3 everybody to talk because then we have people that are
4 sport hunters and this is what they do for a living and
5 then they're overtalk and overtalk and overtalk and
6 they just blow us out of the water. So it's a
7 disrespectful environment is a good place to start.
8 It's something we've all got to work on.

9

10 But we do all meet and talk. We've
11 been meeting for quite a while now on our own, so
12 that's why we are participating.

13

14 We've called in to the last couple of
15 RAC meetings.

16

17 MR. WOODRUFF: We have similar issues
18 in Eagle. Thank you.

19

20 MS. MARUNDE: Yeah.

21

22 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any other
23 questions.

24

25 (No comments)

26

27 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.
28 Thanks, Jamie. Advisory group comments. Other
29 Regional Advisory Councils. Did anyone else take this
30 one up?

31

32 MS. MAAS: Through the Chair. This is
33 Lisa Maas. The Southcentral, this is a crossover with
34 them and they voted to oppose this proposal due to
35 conservation concerns for the Mentasta Herd.

36

37 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. We did
38 hear about the AC, the Upper Tanana Fortymile. Any
39 other ACs take this up?

40

41 (No comments)

42

43 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And the SRC.
44 It does take in part of the Park, this proposal, on
45 Federal land.

46

47 MS. CELLARIUS: Thank you, Madame
48 Chair. The Wrangell-St. Elias Subsistence Resource
49 Commission supported WP18-54 as modified by OSM with

50

1 two additional modifications. The SRC's modifications
2 are to establish a harvest limit of up to two caribou
3 and also to include consultation with affected tribes
4 and the Ahtna Intertribal Resource Commission in the
5 process of exercising the delegation of authority.

6
7 Increasing the harvest limit to up to
8 two caribou provides additional flexibility and is
9 consistent with the harvest limit for Unit 13 caribou
10 hunt, which also targets the Nelchina Caribou Herd.
11 The commission felt that a harvest limit of up to three
12 caribou was too high especially given concerns about
13 the Mentasta Caribou Herd.

14
15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Barbara, real
16 quick, could you run by who they asked for added
17 consultation. Was it AITRC.....

18
19 MS. CELLARIUS: Affected tribes and
20 AITRC.

21
22 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Thank
23 you. Summary of written comments.

24
25 MS. WESSELS: Katya Wessels for the
26 record. We did not receive any written public comments
27 for WP18-54.

28
29 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you,
30 Katya. Is there any public testimony here or on the
31 phone.

32
33 (No comments)

34
35 MR. UMPHENOUR: Move to adopt Proposal
36 18-54.

37
38 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: You might
39 want to think that through.

40
41 MR. WOODRUFF: With modification.

42
43 MR. UMPHENOUR: With modification.

44
45 MR. BASSICH: Second.

46
47 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Clarify your
48 modification.

49
50

1 MR. UMPHENOUR: The modification would
2 remove the language referring to dates and sex of the
3 animal.

4
5 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So the OSM
6 modification.

7
8 MR. UMPHENOUR: Correct.

9
10 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, there's
11 hands waving. Calm down.

12
13 MS. MAAS: Excuse me, Madame Chair.
14 Lisa Maas for the record. Yeah, apologies. A written
15 comment was submitted by Ahtna and it was missed by
16 OSM, so apologies for that. Ahtna's comment is that
17 they don't support 18-54. It will increase the take of
18 caribou beyond sustainable limits and stress the herd
19 in its winter range. We have seen overharvest of
20 caribou in the past with liberal bag limit and has
21 taken decades to recover. This is not a wise proposal
22 and we oppose it.

23
24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Did they meet
25 again and change any of that like they did the other
26 one? Does anyone know the answer to that? Karen, are
27 you still on?

28
29 (No comments)

30
31 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. That
32 was sent in with their other comments that you just
33 read? Okay. All right.

34
35 MR. GLANZ: (Indiscernible - away from
36 microphone)

37
38 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: He does,
39 but.....

40
41 MR. BASSICH: We don't have our motion
42 clarified.

43
44 MR. UMPHENOUR: I'll clarify the
45 motion. I'm going to read exactly what it would be.
46 Unit 12 remainder. After three caribou may be taken by
47 a Federal winter season to be registration permit
48 FC1202 during a winter season to be announced. Season
49 dates and harvest limits to be announced prior to any
50

1 season opening.

2

3

MR. WOODRUFF: My second stands.

4

5

6

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Where did you
read that from? What page?

7

8

9

MR. UMPHENOUR: Do you want me to read
it again?

10

11

12

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: No.

13

14

MS. MAAS: You could just say as
modified by OSM.

15

16

17

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That's what
I'm trying to get him to say.

18

19

20

MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay. As modified by
OSM.

21

22

23

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Does the
second concur?

24

25

26

MR. WOODRUFF: Yep.

27

28

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Now
discussion.

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

MR. BASSICH: I'd like to make a
friendly amendment to that if we can and that would be
to include the recommendations by Wrangell-St. Elias to
include consultation with tribes and communities
affected. So that would include Northway into that
consultation when setting bag limits and seasons.

36

37

38

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Making sure
that covers Northway? Just, yeah, affected tribes.

39

40

41

Okay.

42

43

44

MR. BASSICH: Madame Chair. That's a
friendly amendment.

45

46

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: If they would
concur.

47

48

49

50

(Council nodding)

1 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay. I'll speak to
2 the motion.

3
4 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Now Virgil
5 would like to speak to the motion.

6
7 MR. UMPHENOUR: I don't see a
8 conservation issue because the Tetlin manager, his
9 biologist just gave us a report on these caribou
10 populations. It says normally that the ratio of
11 Mentasta Caribou to Nelchina Caribou, the larger herd,
12 the Nelchina, is usually at least 60 to 1 ratio. So
13 that's probably biologically insignificant that the
14 Mentasta Caribou are going to get overharvested with
15 that type of a minority of Mentasta Caribou mixed in
16 when they're present.

17
18 So I don't really feel it's a
19 conservation issue. There hasn't been that much of a
20 harvest in the recent past anyway. So I don't really
21 -- I think that whatever Mentasta Caribou are harvested
22 would be inconsequential and not biologically
23 significant.

24
25 Madame Chair.

26
27 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Andy.

28
29 MR. BASSICH: Thank you, Madame Chair.
30 I concur with Virgil. I think one thing I would like
31 to add to this, given the motion and the modification
32 by OSM, I just wanted to be clear that the harvest
33 limits will be announced and it would be my preference
34 that that coalition would consider two as a limit, not
35 three. I know that's something that they'll discuss,
36 but I guess my concern is that I do agree that three is
37 a little bit high and two would meet the needs of
38 increased harvest, but not going overboard until we
39 have more radio collars and maybe a little bit more
40 clarity on some of the mixing issues.

41
42 That's just my two cents. It has
43 nothing to do with the motion. It's just something
44 that I think is really important to consider for those
45 entities that are going to set those harvest limits.
46 Otherwise, I think this is a really good proposal. I
47 think it's going to benefit people who live in rural
48 areas. It's going to do a lot to help to control what
49 could possibly be herd expansion to the point of them

50

1 hurting themselves. So I think it's good long range
2 management strategy.

3

4 Thank you, Madame Chair.

5

6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: When we
7 talked about this at the SRC and even the caribou
8 meeting, the SRC felt -- local people around the Copper
9 Basin felt like they don't have any three caribou
10 limit, so why should they have a three caribou limit on
11 the Upper Tanana. For me, I guess, I think that is
12 important that you bring it up. I don't know that it's
13 important for us to say that we would rather see it as
14 two. That would be another amendment.

15

16 MR. BASSICH: Madame Chair, if I may.
17 I think that's reflected in our discussion here and in
18 the dialogue. It goes into the record and I think
19 that's good enough. I wasn't trying to change
20 this.....

21

22 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: The proposal.

23

24 MR. BASSICH:because the way I
25 see the proposal, this coalition of people that are
26 going to discuss what the seasons and the harvest
27 limits are, they're the ones that will set those with
28 the area manager on what those harvest limits are going
29 to be. I just wanted to make the point that I think
30 three is excessive and I hope that they would take that
31 into consideration. It's up to them to make those
32 decisions on that based upon this proposal as we are --
33 if we support it as it's written.

34

35 Thank you.

36

37 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any other
38 discussion. Lisa.

39

40 MS. MAAS: Thank you, Madame Chair. I
41 would just like to clarify the friendly amendment. You
42 said add affected tribes and AITRC. When you say
43 affected tribes, I know that includes Northway. Are
44 there any other tribes that would be affected that you
45 would like to be added?

46

47 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Well, I mean
48 -- I don't know. I think I'm getting tired. The
49 people in the Upper Tanana -- it's true, Northway is in

50

1 -- that's their home place, right. There's other
2 villages around. Tanacross, Dot Lake. Who am I
3 missing? Tetlin and also Healy Lake is another one
4 that's supposed to be on our AC.

5
6 MS. BRINKMAN: Tanacross.

7
8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, thank
9 you. Tanacross. All I was saying was that -- we put
10 tribal in there. Did you put AITRC in there too? You
11 just said tribal.

12
13 MR. BASSICH: I said tribal and
14 communities.

15
16 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah.
17 So.....

18
19 MS. MAAS: Yeah, the language is
20 affected tribes and AITRC, but I'm guessing when we're
21 trying to write -- I don't know. I don't think
22 affected tribes really works for a delegated authority.
23 I think you need to be a little more explicit.

24
25 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh, my gosh.

26
27 MS. MAAS: I mean or if Shawn feels --
28 you know, if they feel comfortable that what -- this is
29 something I guess we would need to discuss, but it
30 would be better to clarify now versus go back to the
31 office and like.....

32
33 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I just wish
34 there was a way for the tribe -- like the tribal
35 consultation that -- this might be an opportunity to
36 have him work with the tribes more about -- like here's
37 a regulation that we need to work with the tribes, so
38 he pulls it all together and helps the Refuge out. I
39 see that as a working mechanism. If that helps to
40 clarify.

41
42 Go ahead, Andy.

43
44 MR. BASSICH: Northway for sure.
45 They've shown up here. They've testified that they
46 want to be involved in this, that it impacts their home
47 region greatly and they don't feel like they're being
48 able to participate at the level they'd like to. So
49 Northway for sure on there.

50

1 Thank you.

2
3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: But it also
4 sounds like we need to have a working relationship with
5 ACs to make sure that people are on those ACs that
6 don't feel like they're represented. I think it's
7 important that that works also.

8
9 Nate.

10
11 MR. BERG: This is Nate Berg, Tetlin
12 National Wildlife Refuge. I just wanted to make the
13 comment that when we typically open the season we
14 contact Tanacross, Tetlin, Northway and Dot Lake.

15
16 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: It's already
17 done. Yes. I have a question while you're sitting
18 there if I can remember it now. Oh, that ratio that
19 you spoke to, 60 to 1, did you base that on that many
20 animals on the Refuge at the time or just the whole
21 herd, the Nelchina Herd?

22
23 MR. BERG: I based that on the portion
24 of the Nelchina Herd that typically moves through the
25 Refuge, which obviously changes from year to year.....

26
27 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes.

28
29 MR. BERG:but I based it on an
30 estimate of 30,000 caribou, Nelchinas, moving through
31 this year and even though we know that not all the
32 Mentasta Caribou move through the Refuge, I just went
33 and added all the Mentastas in. So that's where the 60
34 to 1 comes from.

35
36 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right.
37 Thank you.

38
39 Andy.

40
41 MR. BASSICH: Just to clarify, you said
42 when you open the season you contact those communities,
43 but are they a part of the team that helps to set the
44 bag limits or the seasons? That's the point we're
45 trying to make because I feel like they're being left
46 out of that ability to have input into when the season
47 is open and what the harvest is.

48
49 And it's directly -- the reason I speak
50

1 so strongly about this is because it leads to our very
2 first point on the agenda and that's this education and
3 exchange and the fact that a lot of people in rural
4 Alaska are feeling like they're being overrun by people
5 in their home communities and it's displacing them and
6 it's making them work very hard for their food
7 security.

8
9 That's the bottom line fundamental
10 issue here that's taking place, so these people want to
11 have a little bit more say on what happens on their
12 lands, in their back yard that affects them directly
13 because they don't have the economic means to have any
14 other source of food.

15
16 That's the fundamental question and the
17 issue that we're trying to deal with here, that I'm
18 trying to deal with here because that's really
19 important and they're getting stomped down into the
20 ground. They have no ability to keep people from
21 stomping on them.

22
23 So I want to make sure that they have
24 the ability to speak out and their voices as equal as
25 those coming from places with large population groups
26 or that big stick that I talked about because when you
27 come to these kinds of decisions being made, every
28 voice should be equal and shouldn't be based on
29 population or the way you use it. It should be equal.

30
31 In my opinion, personally, the Federal
32 program is set up to protect those entities more so.
33 The State regulations don't protect these small
34 communities that are being hammered like this and this
35 is the one chance -- this entity right here is the one
36 chance for them to have some sort of equal protection
37 so that their food source is protected so that they can
38 continue to live the lifestyle that this entire
39 organization was developed to protect.

40
41 That's the last thing.

42
43 I hate to go off on a ramp, but I
44 really want to make that clear. That's why I talked so
45 strongly about this because I see it happening. This
46 woman here is telling us it's happening. It's
47 happening. So what are we going to do about it. It's
48 the Federal program's job to make sure that that
49 doesn't happen to the people that live out in rural

50

1 Alaska.

2

3

Thank you. That's my ramp.

4

5

Sorry, Sue.

6

7

8

MR. BERG: To answer your question to the best of my knowledge, no, we have not done that in the past, but we concur that that's important.

10

11

12

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you. Since you got that far forward, you must want to come up and speak.

13

14

15

(Laughter)

16

17

18

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead, Shawn.

19

20

21

MR. BAYLESS: Madame Chair. Shawn Bayless again. I tried to get up here before my biologist got his butt chewed out, but I was a little late.

22

23

24

25

(Laughter)

26

27

28

MR. BASSICH: That wasn't a chewing out. I want to clarify. I'm not angry or anything. I'm just really passionate about that and I think we're making progress. The whole reason why we're bringing this topic up is so that we can continue to improve on the process. The process is good. It just constantly needs to be modified as times change, populations change and the dynamics of the hunting that goes on in the state changes.

29

30

31

32

33

34

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38

39

40

41

We have to be very proactive because it takes so long in the Federal process for anything to take place, but if we're not talking about it now, it's not going to happen for at least two years from now and that might be too late for some of these communities. That's the point I'm trying to make.

42

43

44

45

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So I have to say that he has taken lessons from Virgil.

46

47

48

49

50

(Laughter)

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: They elevate

1 their voice to get their point across.

2

3 MR. BAYLESS: I concur with him
4 wholeheartedly. There's a paradox called the tragedy
5 of the commons and that's exactly what's going on in
6 Alaska and Montana where you have a common such as
7 wildlife and it shrinks, shrinks, shrinks and the
8 population of humans expands. It's an old, old paper
9 written way back in the 1800s and it still applies
10 today.

11

12 But to address this specific subject,
13 in the past, when we set the seasons for caribou, we
14 have always just talked to the area biologist and the
15 Park Service. That's how it's described in my hunt
16 plan. When we propose a change to regulations like the
17 special action and the moose one, I include all the
18 villages.

19

20 I met with Northway in March, the
21 village council, when I presented this. Maybe there's
22 a disconnect there, but we were there. We proposed and
23 we didn't hear any comment from them. So to say that
24 we don't communicate with the village council of
25 Northway is not correct. I try very hard to do so on a
26 regular basis.

27

28 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you,
29 Shawn. I think I've had conversations with you on the
30 phone. When people lived in Alaska before ANILCA or
31 the Antiquities Act, they remember when there was no
32 Federal government in their backyard and now they have
33 to deal with this Federal government.

34

35 So sometimes you're still feeling the
36 -- I'll call it pain, but what we felt like whenever we
37 saw these new things, Refuges and Parks and enlarged
38 parks and wild and scenic, we didn't have to deal with
39 all that and now suddenly when we come to these
40 meetings and those people that live in Northway they
41 might still have their own pain about we have to deal
42 with this.

43

44 REPORTER: Mic, please.

45

46 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Did I turn
47 that off? And all of that can't be recorded? And I
48 was so passionate.

49

50

1 MR. BAYLESS: I heard it.

2
3 (Laughter)

4
5 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Did somebody
6 turn their mic on?

7
8 REPORTER: I got it.

9
10 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: You did get
11 it. Whew. I'd have a hard time repeating that. I
12 mean that -- there's my passion. It's really hard to
13 get these new entities that came into their land and
14 say, gosh, I have to listen to all this now and I
15 didn't have to deal with that. So you have to be a
16 little bit soft to that.

17
18 Keep doing what you're doing. I think
19 we need to recognize the problems we have and see if we
20 can fix them.

21
22 MR. BAYLESS: I can do better and I
23 will.

24
25 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Great.
26 Sounds good.

27
28 Andy.

29
30 MR. BASSICH: I'd just like to add it
31 goes both ways though. Like you say, it's important
32 for you to address these communities but it's also --
33 the onus then goes on these communities to give their
34 input. If that isn't happening, then they can come and
35 complain, but I'm not going to have too much sympathy
36 if they've been consulted.

37
38 MR. BAYLESS: No, I'm hearing exactly
39 what she said and I'm going to look into it. If I'm at
40 fault, the buck stops with me, and we'll do better.

41
42 MR. BASSICH: Because the other thing
43 that does happen that maybe goes along with that report
44 that was written in the 1800s is the fact that when you
45 have committees, the more people you have, the more one
46 or two entities within that tend to have a lot more
47 power or say and that's just the way it works in our
48 society. It's unfortunate, but that's the way it
49 works. So you have to be a very strong individual when

50

1 you're a minority to be heard.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right. I
4 see Jamie standing.

5

6 MS. MARUNDE: This is Jamie with
7 Northway Village again. I think it's important that we
8 talk in facts here.....

9

10 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes.

11

12 MS. MARUNDE:we are not going to
13 stand around and complain about our emotions. This is
14 a fact-based argument and a fact-based situation. For
15 example, I think this past year the Refuge -- I think
16 they might have come to our -- we invited them to our
17 culture week, but they do all their events in the Tok
18 community, in surrounding communities, and haven't done
19 much in our community. There's no partnership on any
20 type of research in our community.

21

22 They recently built a new trail that's
23 a huge impact to our community and we were never
24 involved with that until after the fact. I mean
25 there's -- and when Shawn talks about he came to our
26 community, he said -- he told me on the phone and our
27 village agreed with this, he said, oh, I mentioned it
28 in passing. No. We have to see a paper. If you don't
29 understand that we are -- I mean this is important.
30 Communication is important. You guys all know that
31 being on this board.

32

33 I graduated college. I have a master's
34 degree, so I can read anything you guys give to me.
35 When you go to a village and you mention something in
36 passing, that is very different. Did they understand
37 the impacts of these different things? You know, did
38 they see a paper? Was it explained? Did they talk
39 about the impacts? No, that didn't happen. He
40 mentioned it in passing.

41

42 You know, so a lot of these things I
43 guess we could sit down if you want us to and go back
44 and think of all these different things that have
45 happened that we haven't had consultation on. We could
46 do that. But let's make sure this is a fact-based
47 conversation, please.

48

49 That's all I wanted to say.

50

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: The best
2 thing is you guys just work together and have a
3 willingness to figure out how you can solve all the
4 problems. That's really important.

5
6 MS. MARUNDE: Yeah, that's both sides.

7
8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah. Thank
9 you. Okay. Did we get wrapped around the axle.

10
11 MR. BASSICH: No. We just had our
12 passionate half hour.

13
14 (Laughter)

15
16 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah. Any
17 other discussion here.

18
19 MS. MAAS: Madame Chair. I was just
20 trying to clarify the motion, but if the Council wants
21 to just leave it as affected tribes, I mean that's up
22 to you. I just am trying to anticipate going back to
23 the office and trying to figure out what tribes are
24 actually affected by this.

25
26 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, like I
27 said earlier, I think Orville, in his position, can
28 work with the tribes and determine what that is. You
29 can reach out to them and ask them who wants to be
30 involved and then you move forward. The Refuge already
31 has said that they contact Tanacross, Tetlin, Dot Lake.

32
33 MR. BASSICH: And Northway.

34
35 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And Northway.
36 Okay. So they're all in there. The only other village
37 in our area that serves on that Upper Tanana Fortymile
38 Advisory Committee is Healy Lake.
39 Let it be noted that if the people from the Nelchina
40 region want to be a part of it that you need to reach
41 out to them and they need to be -- Southcentral Council
42 is on this already, no? I don't want to go crazy on
43 this, but I think it's important. The Chairs of both
44 Councils. That's what I thought. It's in there.

45
46 MS. WESSELS: Madame Chair. I thought
47 Member Bassich said to include the Northway for sure
48 when he was speaking earlier.

49
50

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah.

2

3 MS. WESSELS: So it wasn't just
4 affected tribes.

5

6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And he said
7 including Northway.

8

9 MS. WESSELS: I don't know if Lisa is
10 hearing that.

11

12 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Hang on.

13

14 MS. WESSELS: Lisa, I thought Member
15 Bassich said to include the Northway for sure, so we at
16 least need to reflect that.

17

18 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. I kind
19 of thought we had.

20

21 MR. WOODRUFF: Tanacross was online and
22 said them too, didn't they?

23

24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Somebody said
25 Tanacross. Whoever said Tanacross online would you
26 identify yourself.

27

28 MS. BRINKMAN: This is Charlotte
29 Brinkman. I said Tanacross.

30

31 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh, hi
32 Shawna.

33

34 MS. BRINKMAN: Charlotte.

35

36 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Charlotte.
37 And you're with the Tok Natives Association?

38

39 MS. BRINKMAN: Yes.

40

41 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes.
42 Tanacross is included as far as the Refuge is
43 concerned. They've been contacting them, they tell me.

44

45 MS. WESSELS: So should we include it
46 into your motion, Tanacross?

47

48 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Well, I
49 already mentioned all the villages in our region.

50

1 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, I think we're good.
2 I think we can move on.

3
4 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah.

5
6 MS. MAAS: For the record, just to
7 clarify, currently in the handy dandy regulation
8 booklet the Southcentral Council is not included, but
9 in the delegation of authority letter the Southcentral
10 Council is included. So that actually is a slight
11 modification. Before I was saying that taking
12 everything out from the handy dandy -- you know, the
13 OSM modification is just an administrative change. It
14 actually is a slight modification because it's adding
15 in the Southcentral Council.

16
17 I'm just trying to state that on the
18 record to clarify.

19
20 MR. WOODRUFF: Sue, have we gone down
21 these bullet points?

22
23 REPORTER: Mic, please.

24
25 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: He just asked
26 me a question, have we gone down the bullet points.

27
28 MR. GLANZ: It sounds pretty good to
29 me.

30
31 MR. BASSICH: I did.

32
33 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Andy and
34 Virgil thought they had.

35
36 MR. BASSICH: Yep.

37
38 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Does Staff
39 feel that's adequate what's on the record?

40
41 MS. MAAS: Yeah, if you could just
42 maybe restate the motion one more time for clarity and
43 then I think the justification you guys have discussed
44 it at length.

45
46 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: The motion
47 was to adopt as amended OSM modification.

48
49 MR. BASSICH: And the friendly
50

1 amendment was to include.....

2

3

REPORTER: Mic, please.

4

5

6

MR. BASSICH: Sorry. And the friendly amendment was to include tribal entities affected in the area, namely Northway, Tanacross, Tetlin.....

7

8

9

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Tetlin. I forgot one. Dot Lake.

10

11

12

MR. BASSICH: Dot Lake. Okay.

13

14

15

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Donald, did you want to add anything else for our justification?

16

17

18

MR. WOODRUFF: Well, Sue, will the recommendation be beneficial or detrimental to subsistence needs and users. I don't think so.

19

20

21

Will the recommendation unnecessarily restrict other users. I don't think so.

22

23

24

Is the recommendation supported by substantial evidence, biological and traditional ecological knowledge. I think so.

25

26

27

Is there a conservation issue. I don't think so.

28

29

30

So I'm going to ask the question.

31

32

33

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. The question is called for. Do you all understand the motion?

34

35

36

(Council nodding)

37

38

39

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right. All in favor say aye.

40

41

42

IN UNISON: Aye.

43

44

45

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Anyone opposed.

46

47

48

(No opposing votes)

49

50

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Motion

1 passes. Let's go to the next one, 55. Man, this is
2 taking too long.

3

4 Go ahead, Megan.

5

6 MS. KLOSTERMAN: For the record, this
7 is Megan Klosterman again, wildlife biologist with OSM.
8 I'm going to review WP18-55, which can be found on Page
9 159 of your meeting materials.

10

11 The proponent, Tetlin National Wildlife
12 Refuge, requests that the fall and winter moose seasons
13 be extended from August 24th through September 20th and
14 November 1st through February 28th to August 20th
15 through September 30th and November 1st through April
16 30th, in a portion of Unit 12 with Tetlin National
17 Wildlife Refuge and Wrangell-St. Elias National
18 Preserve north and east of the Pickerel Lake Winter
19 Trail.

20

21 The proponent states that adoption of
22 this proposal would provide Federally qualified
23 subsistence users with additional opportunity to
24 harvest moose opportunistically during the caribou
25 season and would reduce user confusion.

26

27 Moose are an important subsistence
28 resource for many communities in the unit with moose
29 being the preferred red meat resource in many
30 households as well as the most available source of red
31 meat for many communities.

32

33 The most recent population estimate of
34 4,492 to 6,444 moose in Unit 12 is based on a
35 compilation of data from 2010 to 2014. Moose
36 populations in Unit 12 have been relatively stable
37 since 2008 and moose densities have been and are
38 expected to remain stable throughout most of the unit.

39

40 Most of the unit is difficult to access
41 especially within the Tetlin National Wildlife Refuge.
42 An average of 133 moose have been harvested annually
43 over the past 10 years in Unit 12. 163 moose were
44 harvested in 2015 alone.

45

46 Harvest falls within the State
47 sustainable harvest rate for the unit. Approximately
48 30 percent of the 2015 harvest was taken by local Unit
49 12 users.

50

1 A Federal registration permit is
2 currently in place for the Tetlin National Wildlife
3 Refuge hunt area. On average, 55 permits are issues
4 annually with 22 users actually hunting. An annual
5 harvest under this permit only averaged two moose from
6 2006 to 2015.

7
8 If adopted, this proposal would
9 increase harvest opportunity for Federally qualified
10 subsistence users in an area where current harvest
11 under Federal regulations is low. So as of right now
12 the OSM preliminary conclusion is to support WP18-55.

13
14 Thank you.

15
16 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any
17 questions.

18
19 (No comments)

20
21 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Consultations
22 with tribes and corporations.

23
24 MR. LIND: Madame Chair. On the
25 Wildlife Proposal consultation period on September 14th
26 we did have a member from Northway and I would like to,
27 with your permission, invite her to come up and tell it
28 in person and give you the information.

29
30 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

31
32 MR. LIND: Thank you.

33
34 MS. MARUNDE: This is Jamie from
35 Northway Village Council and I'm just going to read the
36 letter that we submitted. Thank you for the
37 opportunity for the Northway Village Council to share
38 our concerns about WP18-55. We do not support this
39 proposal that would make changes to FM1203 and feel
40 that there should have been tribal consultation with
41 our community and other tribes potentially affected
42 prior to WP18-55 being submitted for your consideration
43 by the Tetlin National Wildlife Refuge Manager.

44
45 ADF&G subsistence recently completed a
46 comprehensive subsistence project in our community
47 covering the 2014 calendar year, which was funded by
48 the Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve.
49 While only making up 24.5 percent of our total

50

1 subsistence economy in edible weight, moose are vital
2 to Northway residents for economic, cultural and
3 spiritual purposes.

4
5 96.4 percent of our households reported
6 using moose while only 23.6 percent of households
7 successfully harvested a moose in 2014 out of the 66
8 percent of our households that attempted to get a
9 moose. These figures do not include the approximated
10 moose harvested in 2014 for ceremonial purposes
11 associated with funeral and memorial potlatches.

12
13 Our tribal members have difficulty
14 finding moose because of the continuing low density of
15 moose in our area and because we do not have the
16 resources to effectively compete with non-local Alaska
17 residents and nonresidents who also hunt moose in our
18 area.

19
20 While the stated intent of WP18-55 is
21 to, one, simplify and align regulations with nearby
22 areas and, two, provide additional subsistence
23 opportunity for local residents, Northway Village
24 Council does not agree that their proposal will meet
25 such stated intent and will, in fact, likely have
26 negative consequences to our moose hunting
27 opportunities.

28
29 First, the proposed regulatory change
30 would not align the moose season with any nearby
31 seasons as there are no nearby seasons from August 20
32 to September 30 as published in the proposal. For
33 example, the proposal states that the season end date
34 of September 30 would be aligned with the end date of
35 the Federal caribou season, but that hunt opportunity
36 and specific season may be announced only.

37
38 Secondly, ADF&G wildlife reports that
39 local residents account for an average of 50 percent of
40 moose hunters in Unit 12 with non-local Alaska
41 residents 36 percent of moose hunters continuing to
42 increase in numbers and their proportions of total
43 moose harvested from our area. There are not many
44 resident moose in our area and we depend on moose
45 coming from the south of us to continue to provide us
46 with moose in our area which continues to have low
47 moose densities.

48
49 We are concerned that the proposed
50

1 changes to the FM1203 moose hunt will actually decrease
2 our subsistence moose hunting opportunities because it
3 will result in more people intercepting migratory moose
4 coming from the south. We are also concerned that even
5 more people will come to this area and increase the
6 problems you already have with trash being left on
7 native lands and that the area will be overhunted and
8 reduce the number of moose that move into the flatlands
9 from the Refuge.

10
11 The lack of enforcement resources is
12 also a concern of ours. We are concerned that more and
13 more aircraft will also be used, which we do not
14 support. Northway Village Council needs more moose
15 available to our tribal members and we feel that WP18-
16 55 will result in fewer moose being available for
17 customary and traditional uses.

18
19 We would like to thank you for your
20 consideration of our concerns regarding this proposal.

21
22 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you,
23 Jamie. Any questions of Jamie.

24
25 Andy.

26
27 MR. BASSICH: Thank you, Jamie. Are
28 you seeing right now a lot of competition from people
29 that don't live in the area in your region right now?

30
31 MS. MARUNDE: That's what I was trying
32 to bring out with the last proposal. That's why we
33 want to be involved. It's hard to come up here and
34 just explain it because you almost have to go on for a
35 week about all the problems you have, you know.

36
37 I was just telling Bruce before I left
38 a hilarious story about how we went to -- you know, all
39 the people from their area, it's so packed in
40 Glennallen people are coming down to us and we go and
41 talk to them because they are on our Native lands. So
42 they're on trails they shouldn't be on. There's trash
43 all over the place. It's a very problematic situation.
44 The troopers don't really deal with it.

45
46 So when we go and talk to them they
47 tell us that and then you guys are right on point
48 because a lot of them are military. So you guys are
49 heading in the right direction with this hunter

50

1 education. But a lot of people are coming from the
2 Glennallen area. It's more and more. On the front of
3 us in our State land. So with Northway, we're inside
4 the Refuge. To the right of us is Canada. To the left
5 of us is the Tetlin Reserve. In front of us is State
6 land.

7
8 So this is what we got. We're lovers
9 of the Refuge. I wanted to make that point too. We
10 have the same goals as the Refuge, conservation and
11 taking care of this land because I mean this is all we
12 got. We're not near an economic center. This is the
13 livelihood of this village.

14
15 To make another point, a lot of these
16 people come into the front of us on our State land and
17 cutting the moose off and coming into us. These are
18 people from Fairbanks and Anchorage and it's increasing
19 numbers that we've recorded in these studies. These are
20 people who have full-time jobs. People who have 401-K
21 plans. People who have the ability to go and get a
22 loan, get a \$35,000 river boat, a brand-new
23 snowmachine. Equipment that's so different from 20
24 years ago it's not even funny.

25
26 So our people are out there and I think
27 we have three four-wheelers in the whole village. We
28 don't have jobs there. This is our life. So we're
29 competing. I mean I'm here because it's an urgent
30 situation. Yeah, we're greatly impacted by this. So
31 that's why we're saying this is important to us. We're
32 sustaining ourselves on this land. We just want to
33 protect it. We've got to take care of it.

34
35 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Andy.

36
37 MR. BASSICH: Maybe not so much a
38 question, but a comment. This is the kind of thing that
39 I've been hearing more and more and this is why we're
40 getting proposals like the one we had last year in Unit
41 23. This is a real problem. There's a real inequity
42 that's taking place because of the fact some people
43 have the economic means to do these things. In our
44 hunter education brainstorming session all the things
45 that you just talked about were identified as key
46 issues that need to be addressed.

47
48 I guess the point I'm trying to make is
49 what you're talking about is real. It's identified. I
50

1 think we're understanding that. We're going to have to
2 try and make inroads into that. That's why I'm asking
3 the question about what you're seeing right now because
4 we had the same problem in Eagle many years ago with
5 moose hunting and what we ended up doing was shortening
6 the season and so it made it less attractive for
7 hunters to come in the area to hunt. That was actually
8 the most effective tool even though it still hamstrung
9 our community, it actually helped in the long run with
10 people getting more moose with the shorter season.

11
12 These are all real issues. They're
13 really tough issues to deal with.

14
15 Anyway, I feel for you. I know you're
16 in a tough place.

17
18 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any other
19 questions.

20
21 Donald then Bill.

22
23 MR. WOODRUFF: I'd just like to state
24 that you're very well spoken and I think that we hear
25 exactly what you're saying.

26
27 Thank you.

28
29 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Bill.

30
31 MR. GLANZ: We're kind of overlooking
32 that the only ones that this is going to effect is
33 Federal subsistence hunters.

34
35 MR. BASSICH: Actually, Bill, one thing
36 I was hoping to share at this meeting at some point in
37 time, maybe not on the record, but what I'm beginning
38 to see is a tremendous -- what we're calling in this
39 hunter education program -- the domino effect. People
40 are going much greater distances from their homes,
41 Anchorage, Juneau.

42
43 We had a tremendous amount of people
44 from Juneau up on the Yukon River hunting moose this
45 year because Federal and State trails were closed to
46 them, so they're being displaced, so there's this
47 domino effect. They displace the people in Glennallen,
48 the people from Glennallen then move up into Tok, the
49 people from Tok move up the highway a little more.

50

1 When you're at the end of the road, there's no place
2 left to go. That's what's happening.

3
4 So to guess that maybe someone won't
5 come from Juneau or Wrangell to come up and go moose
6 hunting, what I'm seeing is they've got no problem with
7 it because they've got the economic means to do it and
8 that's the problem. They take the time off, they've
9 got the car, they've got the boat, they've got the
10 snowmachine, the four-wheelers and they're out for a
11 good time.

12
13 So what may not have happened 10 years
14 ago is happening now because of the economic
15 differences that are taking place. And the values that
16 people have when they're hunting. We have to recognize
17 people that are urban hunters think differently about
18 what a hunt is all about than people who are rural.
19 That's a fundamental difference that we're going to
20 have to deal with and their actions show.

21
22 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Just for the
23 record though what we are talking about is extending a
24 season in the National Wildlife Refuge where only
25 Federally qualified subsistence users can hunt. This
26 dialogue is fine, but we're talking about a two month
27 longer season in Unit 12 in the Refuge and a little
28 part of the Park.

29
30 MR. BASSICH: Federally qualified
31 people can be people from all around the state that are
32 Federally qualified.

33
34 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: You have to
35 have a C&T for moose in that region.

36
37 MR. BASSICH: Okay, you're right.
38 Sorry. I forgot about that. Thank you. Yeah, that
39 scared me for a second.

40
41 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: You scared me
42 for a second.

43
44 (Laughter)

45
46 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Virgil
47 has to leave. He's the chair of the State Fairbanks
48 Fish and Game AC. His meeting is at 6:30. They're
49 meeting at the Fairbanks Fish and Game Office in the

50

1 conference room, Virgil, in case you want to know.

2

3 We're almost ready to vote on this, I
4 think. Maybe not.

5

6 MR. BASSICH: Can I ask one more
7 question.

8

9 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, you can.
10 Ask the question.

11

12 MR. BASSICH: Thank you, Sue. Can I
13 get a listing of who has C&T from Pat.

14

15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: It's in the
16 book. What page is it. It's on Unit 12.

17

18 MS. KLOSTERMAN: It's Page 61 in
19 the.....

20

21 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: In the
22 Federal regs.

23

24 MS. KLOSTERMAN:reg book, yeah.
25 So it's residents of Units 12, 13C, Dot Lake and Healy
26 Lake, it looks like has C&T there.

27

28 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, it's a
29 small number of people.

30

31 MR. BASSICH: Thank you.

32

33 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. The
34 motion is on the floor, right?

35

36 MR. WOODRUFF: No.

37

38 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: It's not.
39 Okay. Where am I. Public comments, we did that,
40 right.

41

42 MS. WESSELS: Agency comments.

43

44 MR. WOODRUFF: Tribal. We did tribal.

45

46 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh, my gosh.
47 We really did get crazy here. Now we're down to the --
48 did we do.....

49

50

1 MS. WESSELS: ADF&G.

2
3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: We did ADF&G
4 and Federal.

5
6 MR. WOODRUFF: No, not yet.

7
8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh, that's
9 right. You came under tribal corporation. Sorry.
10 Okay. ADF&G. Is there any comments from ADF&G.

11
12 MR. WELLS: Thanks, Madame Chair and
13 members of the Committee. This is Jeff Wells. I'm the
14 assistant area biologist for the State and Tok. First
15 of all, I just want to thank you for the opportunity to
16 provide a few comments. I know it's getting late in
17 the day and you guys have had a long day, so I'll keep
18 my section short here.

19
20 To begin with, the Department has no
21 biological concerns associated with the proposed
22 season. Bull/cow ratios from the two most recent moose
23 surveys, which was in 2008 and 2012, were both above
24 the minimum post count bull/cow ratio of 40 per 100.
25 Like I said, the most recent survey was in 2012.
26 Efforts have been made both of the last two years to
27 get a survey completed, but due to poor conditions it
28 wasn't able to happen. It more likely will happen this
29 year.

30
31 To clarify, that portion of the area is
32 the area that the Fish and Wildlife Service surveyed,
33 so they'll probably touch on that and we, as the State,
34 survey a different portion of Unit 12, so we work
35 together to complete moose surveys in this unit.

36
37 As has already been touched on, moose
38 densities in this area are fairly low and appear to be
39 stable at around .6 moose per square mile. The
40 Department feels that the extension of the fall season
41 would likely result in relatively little additional
42 harvest even though it would result in 10 additional
43 days during the late part of the season when bulls are
44 increasing rutting activity, but it's fairly difficult
45 to access much of the hunt area.

46
47 Similarly, the extension of the winter
48 season will likely result in relatively little
49 additional harvest due to the antlered bull bag limit

50

1 and the fact that few bulls typically retain antlers
2 late into the winter or into the spring.

3
4 In conclusion, the Department
5 recommendation at this point is neutral as we have no
6 biological concerns associated with this proposal.

7
8 Thank you.

9
10 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any
11 questions.

12
13 (No comments)

14
15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you,
16 Jeff Wells. Any Federal comments.

17
18 MR. BAYLESS: Madame Chair. Shawn
19 Bayless, Tetlin Refuge Manager. Jeff stole all my
20 thunder almost. The one clarification I would like to
21 make and that I heard a comment that this does not
22 align the seasons north and south of the Refuge, in
23 fact I think the analysis says it misalign it, I'd like
24 to clarify that and I think there's a little confusion.

25
26 This season, if approved, especially
27 the fall season ending on the 30th, would align with
28 the Federal lands in 20E and the Federal lands in Unit
29 12 remainder in the park south of the Federal trail.
30 So right now we're in the middle of a north and south
31 unit that all end on the 30th. We end on something
32 other than the 30th. So there's a lot of confusion
33 there and I get a lot of questions from the public in
34 the fall from locals. They assume they can hunt the
35 Refuge because north and south they can hunt until the
36 30th in the Park and also in the BLM lands in 20E.

37
38 So that was the whole impetus behind
39 this and it's also what I discussed with the village
40 council last spring, just to simplify things for
41 everybody involved.

42
43 That was my point of clarification for
44 that.

45
46 Do you have any questions about that?

47
48 MR. WOODRUFF: I do.

49
50

1 MR. BAYLESS: Yes, sir.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Don.

4

5 MR. WOODRUFF: Thank you, Madame Chair.
6 Why then did you add August 20th instead of August
7 24th?

8

9 MR. BAYLESS: Because the Federal
10 season in RM291 in 11 and I believe in 20E starts on
11 the 20th, is that correct? I don't know that.

12

13 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Unit 12
14 remainder.

15

16 MR. BAYLESS: Again, my objective there
17 was to simplify things. Make it all the same.

18

19 MR. WOODRUFF: We like that.

20

21 MR. GLANZ: Yeah.

22

23 MR. BAYLESS: Yeah, I get that
24 complaint all the time. It's so confusing. Even
25 amongst the Federal regulations that nobody can
26 understand what's going on. They have to carry a
27 surveyor and a lawyer with them when they want to go
28 hunting and that's just not right.

29

30 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: We've been
31 saying that for 30 years.

32

33 MR. BAYLESS: That's true.

34

35 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Got to have
36 that land surveyor too. Okay. Any other questions of
37 Shawn.

38

39 (No comments)

40

41 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Next. Any
42 other tribal comments on this proposal. Push *6 to get
43 back on.

44

45 (No comments)

46

47 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Hearing none.
48 Other Regional Advisory Councils. Go ahead.

49

50

1 MS. KLOSTERMAN: Madame Chair. This is
2 Megan Klosterman. The Southcentral RAC opposed this
3 proposal.
4

5 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Fish
6 and Game Advisory Committees. Shawn, were you at that
7 meeting?
8

9 MR. BAYLESS: Which one, ma'am?
10

11 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Upper
12 Fortymile.
13

14 MR. BAYLESS: No, I was not. My deputy
15 was though, but we didn't discuss it.
16

17 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I have a
18 feeling they didn't discuss it. Okay. Subsistence
19 Resource Commission.
20

21 MS. CELLARIUS: Thank you, Madame
22 Chair. For the record it's Barbara Cellarius with
23 Wrangell-St. Elias. The Wrangell-St. Elias National
24 Park Subsistence Resource Commission opposes WP18-55.
25 In terms of the fall hunt, the SRC did not support
26 extending the season into the rut. With respect to the
27 winter season, that season is already three months
28 long. Five months is too long for the winter season.
29 Extending the season later into the spring when days
30 are longer and it's easier to get out on snowmachines
31 could result in increased harvest.
32

33 The commission also heard public
34 comments opposing the proposal.
35

36 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any
37 questions.
38

39 MR. WOODRUFF: I've got a question.
40

41 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead,
42 Don.
43

44 MR. WOODRUFF: So inadvertently you're
45 saying that there could be conservation concerns? You
46 didn't speak to that directly.
47

48 MS. CELLARIUS: This is for the
49 commission and there were members who felt that five
50

1 months was too long for a season and they do mention
2 that extending the season to when days are longer and
3 it's easier to get out on snowmachines could result in
4 increased harvest.

5
6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any other
7 questions.

8
9 (No comments)

10
11 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Summary of
12 written public comments.

13
14 MS. WESSELS: For the record, Katya
15 Wessels. OSM received two written public comments on
16 WP18-55. The comments came from Esther Brinkman and
17 Charlotte Brinkman. The individuals who commented
18 neither opposed nor supported proposal WP18-55, but
19 rather encouraged the board to consider, quote, more
20 important factors in your decision that just matching
21 seasons such as actual annual moose count trends,
22 ability of the Refuge to patrol, increasing of hunting
23 by local hunters in the future due to Alaska's
24 difficult economic conditions, close quote.

25
26 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any public
27 testimony.

28
29 MS. WESSELS: I guess there is one more
30 written public testimony that came to us from Ahtna. It
31 says that they are neutral on WP18-55 to extend Unit 12
32 moose season to allow longer hunting opportunity.

33
34 Thank you.

35
36 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I wonder if
37 Lester is leaving for the night. We still have a
38 quorum though, right?

39
40 MS. WESSELS: Yes.

41
42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any other
43 public testimony.

44
45 (No comments)

46
47 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Next.
48 Action.

49
50

1 MR. WOODRUFF: Move to adopt WP18-55.

2

3 MR. BASSICH: I'll second.

4

5 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: It's been
6 moved and seconded. Now we need discussion. Andy.

7

8 MR. BASSICH: Thank you, Madame Chair.
9 I'm actually going to vote to oppose this and my
10 reasons are probably very much aligned with what I was
11 saying earlier. Is there a conservation concern. I'm
12 hearing that maybe there isn't a direct conservation
13 concern at this point but I'm also hearing that the
14 moose populations are low but stable.

15

16 How will this address that concern.
17 Well, it's probably going to create a little bit more
18 harvest if it was to go into the long winter season.
19 So I'm very concerned about the conservation aspect of
20 this.

21

22 Is the recommendation supported by
23 substantial evidence such as biological or traditional
24 ecological knowledge. I believe we heard testimony
25 from an individual living directly in this area that is
26 dependent on this resource in a very strong way and I
27 think this proposal could potentially affect their
28 community very dramatically. I've seen it happen in my
29 own community when you have long seasons for hunting.

30

31 I think she very adeptly addressed one
32 of the biggest issues and that is that the equipment
33 available now to get into an area and hunt is so far
34 above where we were 10 years ago that there is no such
35 thing as an inaccessible area in our state anymore. I
36 think we need to recognize that. I'm very concerned,
37 especially in the winter hunt, people could come in who
38 weren't successful in the fall hunt and hunt this area.

39

40 I understand that the C&T is relatively
41 small, but if the moose numbers are fairly low in
42 population and these people need this moose for their
43 community, I'm really concerned about their ability to
44 get this in the long term.

45

46 And will the recommendation be
47 beneficial or detrimental to subsistence needs and
48 users. Well, I think it might be beneficial to people
49 living outside the community, but I think it has a much

50

1 greater potential for being detrimental to the people
2 living directly in that area that rely on that
3 subsistence resource.

4
5 Obviously it doesn't restrict any other
6 people. It's actually opening it up more and that's
7 what part of the problem is.

8
9 Madame Chair, I'm going to vote in
10 opposition to this. Thank you.

11
12 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Bill, did you
13 have something to add?

14
15 MR. GLANZ: I'm just saying I'm in
16 favor of half of this.

17
18 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

19
20 (Laughter)

21
22 MR. GLANZ: Not the bottom half, but
23 the top half. August 20 to September 30 in line with
24 all the other Yukon River communities.

25
26 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead,
27 Nate, then we can talk about that more.

28
29 MR. BERG: I apologize for coming up
30 late. This is Nate Berg, Tetlin National Wildlife
31 Refuge. I just wanted to directly address what you
32 just brought up and your concern. There was a little
33 bit of information that I'm not sure if you guys are
34 aware of. Prior to 2011, I don't have the exact dates,
35 but the season was so short that there was never a
36 moose harvested during this hunt ever. Then, at that
37 point, the season was increased from November 1st to
38 the end of February 28th. Since 2012 through 2016 the
39 total harvest has been a range of two to five moose
40 total with an average of three taken. Just to
41 reiterate that, most of the antlered bull moose have
42 lost their antlers.

43
44 That's all I have.

45
46 MR. WOODRUFF: I've got a question.

47
48 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead,
49 Donald.

50

1 MR. WOODRUFF: Thank you, Madame Chair.
2 I have a real issue when you say that ever, they've
3 never been harvested. As far back as you've looked,
4 right? I have to say that in most small Native
5 communities they are basically or have been a paperless
6 society. So if they document a hunt harvest, that's
7 great, but they don't document their hunt and not
8 harvest very often.

9
10 I see that over and over and it comes
11 up in these analyses. Oh, there's no harvest or
12 there's no one even trying to harvest and that really
13 bothers me because a lot of people don't document when
14 they don't harvest and sometimes they do document when
15 they do harvest. So when you say never, that really
16 kind of sends up some real red flags for me.

17
18 Thank you.

19
20 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I think he
21 was referring to that one hunt.

22
23 MR. GLANZ: I just have one. Didn't
24 that young lady say they took 10 moose for ceremonials
25 last year?

26
27 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Ceremonial
28 and potlatches, yes.

29
30 MR. GLANZ: You got those 10 counted in
31 there too or not?

32
33 MR. WELLS: This was a long time ago.

34
35 MR. GLANZ: Oh, I thought you were
36 talking about last year. I'm sorry.

37
38 MR. WELLS: Yeah, I don't have the
39 numbers before 2012, but the potlatch numbers averages
40 about 10 per year.

41
42 MR. GLANZ: Okay.

43
44 MR. WELLS: So that would be in
45 addition to this hunt. But just as the hunt is all I'm
46 referring to as far as we know two to five.

47
48 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That hunt
49 just started. I remember when the Refuge came for that
50

1 winter hunt. It was how long ago? Do you have that?

2

3 MR. WELLS: I don't know when it first
4 started. I just know when they changed and expanded
5 the season to February 29th and that was 2012.

6

7 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I just know
8 people would like to get out and hunt in December when
9 it first started and it's so bloody cold sometimes in
10 Tok, 40 below or 60 below and they're not interested
11 and there's no daylight.

12

13 MR. GLANZ: No daylight.

14

15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah. I
16 think we voted -- that came up at -- well, the SRC did
17 and then we ended up voting for it. The one that
18 extends the season to February, that's relatively new.

19

20 MR. BASSICH: 2012.

21

22 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Any
23 more discussion before I give my two cents.

24

25 (No comments)

26

27 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: You
28 mentioned, and I'm kind of waffling in that direction,
29 half you agree and half you don't.

30

31 MR. GLANZ: Yes.

32

33 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I agree. I
34 don't want to extend the winter season. I just feel
35 like -- you know, it's more important for the people in
36 the village because probably they're not going to get
37 out and go during that time anyway and I don't feel
38 like we should make a season to where people are going,
39 oops, that's a cow, you know. I just feel like you've
40 really got to know what you're doing to decide that
41 that's a bull or not. So I don't particularly like to
42 see that happen.

43

44 I'm looking at this map, guys. Help me
45 out quickly. So I see the Refuge here and I see the
46 winter trail. Below the winter trail is 30, the ending
47 season.

48

49 MR. BAYLESS: Yes, ma'am.

50

Page 159

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And above the
2 winter trail to the Refuge is the same as the Refuge.

3
4 MR. BAYLESS: Is 24, if that's correct.
5 Is that right?

6
7 IN UNISON: 20th.

8
9 MR. BAYLESS: 20th of December.

10
11 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: The ending
12 day is the 20th.

13
14 MR. BAYLESS: Currently.

15
16 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: But the stuff
17 in this Fortymile just north is a little more, to me,
18 okay, as a user, is a little more insignificant because
19 there's very little Federal land until you get way up
20 there.

21
22 So I'm a little bit puzzled. Part of
23 me says, yeah, maybe it should be to the 30th, but the
24 other part of me goes there's a lot of road access
25 there and I think that's what we've stayed away from is
26 a really long season along the road. So I'm not
27 convinced I want to change anything.

28
29 How about the rest of you?

30
31 MR. BASSICH: I'm probably going to
32 vote it down.

33
34 MR. GLANZ: Four of us can vote?

35
36 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: We are a
37 quorum and Lester just came back, so now we have five.
38 Because there's only seven of us and we have to have
39 four for a quorum.

40
41 MR. GLANZ: Oh, okay.

42
43 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Did you want
44 to contribute?

45
46 MR. BAYLESS: Yes, ma'am. Shawn
47 Bayless, Fish and Wildlife Service, Tetlin Refuge
48 Manager. You asked about Federal lands of 20E. I
49 think it's about 15 miles to the upper end of the
50

Page 160

1 Benison Fork, which is part of the Wild and Scenic. So
2 that's that long corridor that goes from about 15 miles
3 north all the way up to and through Chicken in the
4 Fortymile.

5
6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: You better
7 have that attorney and that land surveyor with you.....

8
9 (Laughter)

10
11 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:to know
12 where that boundary is.

13
14 MR. WOODRUFF: Actually there's signs.

15
16 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, I know
17 they put up the signs, but it scares me though when
18 it's on the road system.

19
20 Any more discussion.

21
22 MR. GLANZ: Call for the question.

23
24 MR. BASSICH: I just wanted to add I
25 recognize the intent behind this to kind of streamline
26 and align seasons, but I have to agree with some of the
27 other testimony that I think in this particular case I
28 think weighing making the alignment and making it a
29 little bit more simplistic for the general public to
30 hunt is outweighed by the needs of a community that
31 doesn't have other opportunities to feed themselves.
32 They can't count on caribou every single year.

33
34 It sounds like this local moose in
35 their area is pretty critical to their diet and I would
36 hate to see -- if the moose were really strong in
37 densities and it was actually growing, I might be a
38 little more willing to support this, but because it's a
39 relatively low density that's stable I think food
40 security outweighs pretty much any other reason that
41 I've heard in any of this analysis.

42
43 I just wanted to put that out there
44 because I think this is a growing concern out in the
45 rural communities as more and more hunters come in and
46 compete with them with high-quality equipment or time
47 on their hands. We're going to see more and more of
48 these proposals as time goes on. So I'm just going to
49 start supporting them right now because I really want

50

1 to see local people's needs given greater weight and
2 more importance than the general public because they
3 have no other opportunities to feed themselves. That's
4 the economics of living out in the Bush.

5
6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any other
7 discussion.

8
9 MR. GLANZ: I called for question.

10
11 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. I'm
12 calling for the question.

13
14 MR. BASSICH: Let's have a raise of
15 hands.

16
17 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: You want a
18 raise of hands?

19
20 MR. BASSICH: Yeah.

21
22 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. This
23 is to -- the motion was to adopt 55 requesting a fall
24 and winter moose season extended and there was no
25 amendments. Does everybody understand what they're
26 voting on?

27
28 MR. WOODRUFF: Yes.

29
30 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Everyone in
31 favor of the longer moose season say aye. Oh, you said
32 a raise of hands. Everybody in favor raise their hand.

33
34 (No hands raised)

35
36 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Everybody
37 opposed raise their hand.

38
39 IN UNISON: (Raised hands)

40
41 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So it passes
42 unanimously.

43
44 MS. WESSELS: Failed.

45
46 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Or fails. I
47 have to apologize. I have kind of a headache, so I
48 think it's not helping me out today.

49
50

1 Council, do you want to take up one
2 more?

3
4 MR. WOODRUFF: Sure.

5
6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: You said
7 sure, so we're taking up the next one.

8
9 MR. BASSICH: Are we taking up 56?

10
11 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: No. We're
12 going to take that up tomorrow.

13
14 MR. BASSICH: Okay, good.

15
16 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: With the
17 rest of them when Andrew is here.

18
19 MR. GLANZ: Oh, okay.

20
21 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: The next one
22 is 32.

23
24 MS. MAAS: Thank you, Madame Chair.
25 Proposal WP18-32 begins on Page 353. Thank you, Madame
26 Chair. Members of the Council. My name is Lisa Maas.
27 Again I'm a wildlife biologist in the Office of
28 Subsistence Management. I'll be presenting a summary
29 of the analysis for WP18-32, which again is on Page 353
30 of the meeting book.

31
32 Wildlife Proposal 18-32 was submitted
33 by the Western Interior Council and requests changes to
34 the caribou season dates in Units 21D, 22, 23, 24, 25A
35 (West), 26A, and 26B.

36
37 The proponent requested these season
38 changes to protect cows during the migration, avoid
39 migration deflections due to hunting and prohibit bull
40 harvest during the rut when bulls are unpalatable. The
41 proponent also intends to submit an proposal to the
42 Alaska Board of Game to align State caribou seasons
43 with these proposed Federal seasons.

44
45 I'll let the Council decide whether
46 they'd like to address all units covered by the
47 proposal or only Unit 25A West, which is the only unit
48 that's in your region and the only unit you have
49 customary and traditional use for.

50

1 It's up to the Council.

2
3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Council,
4 would you agree, let's just deal with the one that's in
5 our region.

6
7 MR. BASSICH: Agreed.

8
9 MS. MAAS: Okay. Thank you. In 2015,
10 the Alaska Board of Game and the Federal Subsistence
11 Board spent a lot of time and effort crafting both
12 Federal and State regulation restrictions by herd and
13 unit in response to local needs and seasonal caribou
14 movements.

15
16 The entire proposal affects units
17 within the ranges of the Western Arctic, Teshekpuk and
18 Central Arctic Caribou Herds, but the only caribou herd
19 that really affects the Eastern Interior Region is the
20 Central Arctic Herd. Caribou populations naturally
21 fluctuate over time and the Central Arctic Herd is
22 currently declining.

23
24 The Central Arctic Herd peaked at
25 70,000 caribou in 2010 and has since declined almost 70
26 percent to 22,400 caribou in 2016. The 2016 bull/cow
27 ratio of 39 bulls per 100 cows is just below State
28 management objectives.

29
30 Caribou migration routes, timing and
31 the number of caribou migrating on a particular route
32 vary each year. Different caribou herds also have
33 different migration patterns and timing. Caribou have
34 been a vital nutritional and cultural resource for the
35 Inupiaq for thousands of years and continue to dominate
36 the subsistence harvest across most of the region.

37
38 A long-held cultural practice is to
39 allow lead cow caribou to establish migratory pathways
40 undisturbed. Local hunters have expressed concerns
41 over aircraft and non-local hunters disrupting caribou
42 migration, which has caused user conflicts in the area.

43
44 The harvestable surplus from the
45 Central Arctic herd decreased dramatically with the
46 recent population decline and has possibly been
47 exceeded. However the 2017 restrictions to State
48 regulations were geared at reducing harvest to
49 sustainable levels. The vast majority of Central

50

1 Arctic Caribou are harvested in Unit 26B by non-
2 Federally qualified users. Most of the local harvest
3 is by Nuiqsut residents. Most of the caribou harvest
4 in Unit 25A West is from the Porcupine Caribou Herd
5 with only 10 percent of the estimated harvest coming
6 from the Central Arctic Herd in Unit 25A West.

7
8 Adopting this proposal would increase
9 regulatory complexity by misaligning State and Federal
10 caribou seasons across several units. The effect of
11 these regulation changes would be limited as all users
12 could hunt under State regulations. One size fits all
13 regulations are not appropriate. Two years ago a lot
14 of time and effort were spent in crafting caribou
15 regulations specific to caribou herd seasonal movements
16 and local needs.

17
18 More time is needed to assess the
19 effectiveness of these regulation changes before making
20 additional changes. While the proposed season changes
21 may avoid migration deflections and aid in population
22 recovery by reducing cow harvest, migrating cow caribou
23 could still be disturbed by users hunting bulls and it
24 would put a substantial burden on Federally qualified
25 subsistence users who must now distinguish between bull
26 and cow caribou.
27 Federal regulations would also become more restrictive
28 than State regulations eliminating the subsistence
29 priority.

30
31 The OSM preliminary conclusion is to
32 oppose Proposal WP18-32.

33
34 Thank you.

35
36 MS. WESSELS: Thank you, Lisa. In
37 Sue's absence, I would like a report on board
38 consultation with tribes and ANCSA corporations.

39
40 MR. LIND: Council. Orville Lind,
41 Native Liaison. There were no discussions on this
42 proposal during consultation on September 14th.

43
44 MS. WESSELS: Thank you, Orville. Now
45 we will proceed and go to agency comments. ADF&G,
46 please.

47
48 MS. PARKER MCNEILL: I'm Doreen Parker
49 McNeill with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

50

1 This proposal seeks to change the seasons and bag
2 limits across areas that have very different caribou
3 herds with unique management strategies. The Alaska
4 Board of Game changed the seasons and bag limits for
5 the Porcupine, Central Arctic, Teshekpuk Lake and
6 Western Arctic Herds in February of 2017.

7
8 These changes reflect the harvestable
9 surplus for each herd as well as an effort to align
10 State and Federal regulations within the range of each
11 herd. The impact of these changes will not be known
12 for several years. Any conservation concerns about
13 these individual herds should already be addressed by
14 these new regulations.

15
16 If you'd like information about the
17 Central Arctic Herd harvest in the northwestern portion
18 of Unit 26B that's where the Federally qualified
19 subsistence hunters hunt and that harvest is almost
20 entirely by Federally qualified subsistence users who
21 do not hunt in the Dalton Highway Corridor.

22
23 The Department is opposed to this
24 proposal. The intent to reduce cow harvest while herds
25 are migrating it's unclear that this proposal would do
26 that. If the Council is concerned about conservation
27 of these herds due to possible herd deflection, the
28 Board of Game actions address seasons and bag limits
29 with conservation as the goal.

30
31 State seasons for the Central Arctic
32 Herd were addressed and modified by the Board of Game
33 in 2007 to reduce harvest so that it does not exceed
34 the harvestable surplus. These changes primarily
35 decreased non-local and nonresident seasons and bag
36 limits, whereas areas hunted mostly by local residents
37 were minimally impacted.

38
39 While this proposal would align Federal
40 regulations in Units 21D, 24, 25A West and 26B with the
41 Western Arctic Herd regulations, it's primarily the
42 Central Arctic and Porcupine Herds that occupy these
43 areas during the hunting season.

44
45 Thank you.

46
47 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any
48 questions.

1 (No comments)

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thanks,
4 Doreen. Any Federal comments.

5

6 Go ahead, Vince.

7

8 MR. MATHEWS: Not to make a big deal
9 out of this, but I encourage you to look at the current
10 customary and traditional use determinations for Unit
11 24, which I'll read into the record is residents of
12 Unit 24, Galena, Kobuk, Koyukuk, Stevens Village and
13 Tanana. Those are two communities that are within your
14 region. So you have the option of looking at the
15 analysis for Unit 24.

16

17 You also have the option of deferring
18 that to the home region, which would be Western
19 Interior, but I really encourage you guys to look at
20 the positive C&T so you make sure that you are
21 considering communities that are in your area that are
22 affected by any of the proposals.

23

24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thanks,
25 Vince. So we are affected by 24, 25 and isn't 26 also
26 we have C&T? I'd have to look.

27

28 MS. MAAS: Through the Chair. The
29 customary and traditional use for caribou in Unit 26A
30 is residents of Unit 26, Anaktuvuk Pass and Point Hope.
31 For 26B is residents of Unit 26, Anaktuvuk Pass, Point
32 Hope and residents of Unit 24 within the Dalton Highway
33 Corridor Management Area.

34

35 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. I have
36 a brain that went dead.

37

38 MR. BASSICH: Question.

39

40 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead,
41 Andy.

42

43 MR. BASSICH: Lester, I have a question
44 for you. Can you tell me are there many people from
45 the Tanana Region that go up and hunt the caribou up on
46 the Haul Road?

47

48 MR. ERHART: No. Nobody goes up there.

49

50

1 MS. MAAS: What about Unit 24?

2
3 MR. ERHART: 24 is where?

4
5 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: It's right
6 behind you there, Virgil -- oh, that's right, your name
7 is Lester. Sorry. I am so tired. They have a C&T.
8 That's why he brought that up.

9
10 MR. ERHART: A little caribou herd that
11 stays up behind the -- it got mixed with the reindeer,
12 so they kind of stationed behind the rapids there.
13 It's a small herd, but they just stay in this one area
14 and every now and then one comes down.

15
16 Then there's another herd, same thing
17 that happened. It's down about 30 miles below Tanana
18 there's a herd there too, but they're bigger caribou
19 and they don't move. They just stay in that area. A
20 lot of people don't know that though.

21
22 MR. BASSICH: Now they do.

23
24 (Laughter)

25
26 MR. ERHART: It's real hard to get to.

27
28 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Anymore
29 questions.

30
31 MS. MAAS: My apologies. Is the
32 Council interested in Unit 24? If that's the case, I
33 should probably present information on the Teshekpuk
34 Herd.

35
36 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh, boy, this
37 is a big proposal. I think Jack's behind this. What's
38 the answer, guys? Do you want to hear about 24 then?

39
40 MR. BASSICH: Yep.

41
42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, go for
43 it.

44
45 MS. MAAS: Okay. The Teshekpuk Herd
46 peaked at 69,000 caribou in 2008 and has since declined
47 40 percent to 41,500 caribou in 2015. The 2016
48 bull/cow ratio of 28 bulls per 100 cows was the lowest
49 ratio since 1991 and is below management objectives.

50

1 The Western Arctic Herd also travels
2 through Unit 24, so I'll give you some information on
3 them as well. The Western Arctic population peaked at
4 490,000 caribou in 2003 and has since declined over 50
5 percent to approximately 201,000 caribou in 2016.
6 Bull/cow ratios are within management objectives.

7
8 Harvest from the Western Arctic
9 Herd approximates the estimated harvestable surplus for
10 this herd. In 2016 the harvestable surplus was about
11 12,000 caribou. The long-term estimated annual harvest
12 also averages about 12,000 caribou. On average, local
13 hunters within the range of the Western Arctic Herd
14 account for 95 percent of the total Western Arctic Herd
15 harvest while non-local hunters account for 5 percent.
16 Most Western Arctic Caribou are harvested in Unit 23.

17
18 Harvest from the Teshekpuk Herd may
19 already exceed the estimated harvestable surplus for
20 this herd. Currently the harvestable surplus estimate
21 is 2,500 caribou. However, the estimated total harvest
22 is about 3,000 caribou. On average, local hunters
23 account for 99.7 percent of the Teshekpuk harvest while
24 non-local hunters only account for .3 percent of the
25 harvest. The vast majority of Teshekpuk Caribou are
26 harvested in Unit 26A.

27
28 Also, just in response to the
29 regulation changes for Unit 24 a couple years ago,
30 again a lot of time and effort were spent in crafting
31 these regulations specific to those units and the herd.
32 So in Unit 24C and 24D cow season does not open until
33 September because caribou are not present in those
34 units during the summer. That's just an example of how
35 these -- you know, so much time was spent two years ago
36 trying to tailor these regulations to specific areas.

37
38 Thank you.

39
40 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any more
41 questions.

42
43 (No comments)

44
45 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. We
46 have heard about a lot of herds now.

47
48 MS. PARKER MCNEILL: Madame Chair.

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead.

2
3 MS. PARKER MCNEILL: This is Doreen
4 Parker McNeill with the Alaska Department of Fish and
5 Game. In an attempt to be brief, I left out a little
6 bit of information about the small resident caribou
7 herds in these areas and Member Erhart mentioned the
8 herd in the Ray Mountains. It's a local herd. It was
9 identified by the Department many decades ago as a
10 resident local herd.

11
12 One of the reasons the Department is
13 opposed to this proposal is because the hunting
14 regulations in that area accommodate hunting practices
15 for that and other small caribou herds in Units 24 and
16 21 and also the Hodzana Hills Caribou Herd in Unit 24A.
17 This proposal would align all those caribou seasons
18 with the Western Arctic Herd seasons and bag limits,
19 which the Western Arctic Herd does not move into these
20 areas every year.

21
22 MS. MAAS: Madame Chair. The Ray
23 Mountain Herd that she's referring to in Unit 24A and
24 B, those hunt areas are not affected by this proposal.
25 There's no date change. I know 21D is beyond the scope
26 of this region, but the area north of the Yukon River
27 that hunt area there's no changes proposed to that hunt
28 area either.

29
30 MR. WOODRUFF: I've got a question.

31
32 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Donald.

33
34 MR. WOODRUFF: Just listening to this
35 proposal it seems to me they're shortening the season.

36
37 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah.

38
39 MR. WOODRUFF: And for conservation
40 reasons. So why would the State be opposed to that?

41
42 MS. PARKER MCNEILL: Through the Chair.
43 The reason is because the State did shorten the State
44 seasons, which is where most of the harvest comes from.
45 The State seasons were shortened and the sex was
46 modified in the bag limit significantly to bring the
47 harvest within harvestable surplus.

48
49 We also have indications that the

50

1 Central Arctic Herd decline has stabilized. We have
2 not completed the count on the photo census yet, but we
3 did get a new photo census this summer. Preliminary
4 indications are that the herd did not further decline
5 and preliminary indications for the Porcupine Herd are
6 that it definitely did not decline. We also have not
7 finished counting the photos for the Porcupine Herd
8 either.

9
10 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Anymore
11 questions.

12
13 (No comments)

14
15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Thank
16 you. I'm lost, guys. Did we do the Federal?

17
18 MS. WESSELS: Uh-huh (affirmative).

19
20 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Are we on
21 tribal? Yeah. Is there any tribal comments.

22
23 (No comments)

24
25 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Other
26 Regional Advisory Councils. None?

27
28 MS. MAAS: No.

29
30 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Western met,
31 didn't they?

32
33 MS. MAAS: Oh, yeah. Through the
34 Chair. Western Interior opposed this proposal. I mean
35 they submitted the proposal and they ended up opposing
36 their own proposal. The Northwest Arctic Council only
37 considered Unit 23, but they opposed the proposal for
38 Unit 23. The Seward Peninsula Council -- does anyone
39 have the Seward Peninsula Council?

40
41 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: She said it
42 would take her a minute.

43
44 MS. MAAS: And the North Slope Council
45 hasn't met yet.

46
47 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any Fish and
48 Game Advisory Committees take it up that you're aware
49 of, anyone?

50

1 (No comments)

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Is there any
4 SRCs in this region? Did they take it up, any SRCs?

5

6 MS. MAAS: I know SRCs met for other
7 regions because this is such a.....

8

9 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Big.

10

11 MS. MAAS:big proposal. Also
12 Gates of the Arctic and the ones in Unit 23 discussed
13 it, but I'm not prepared to speak to their comments.

14

15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Are you still
16 looking, Peppa?

17

18 MS. KENNER: My computer has to.....

19

20 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Wake up.

21

22 MS. KENNER:boot. Yeah.

23

24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any public
25 written comments.

26

27 MS. WESSELS: This is Katya Wessels.
28 We received no written public comments.

29

30 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Any
31 public testimony.

32

33 (No comments)

34

35 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: When you find
36 that, Peppa, you can let us know. Okay. How do you
37 want to proceed.

38

39 MR. BASSICH: Make a motion.....

40

41 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: For all of
42 it?

43

44 MR. BASSICH:(indiscernible).

45

46 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Okay.
47 Go ahead. Who has the motion?

48

49 MS. WESSELS: Okay, I found out the

50

1 Seward Peninsula how they voted. They opposed the
2 proposal.

3
4 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Do I
5 hear a motion.

6
7 MR. BASSICH: Motion to support
8 Proposal WP18-32.

9
10 MR. WOODRUFF: Second.

11
12 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Discussion.

13
14 MR. BASSICH: Speaking to the motion,
15 I'm not going to support it. The region which it's for
16 is not supporting it. If the OSM analysis is not in
17 agreement with it, I see no point in trying to support
18 this. It looks incredibly complicated and it's based
19 upon the fact that the State would have to change many
20 of their seasons to come into alignment with it as
21 well.

22
23 If it was already the State's position
24 to have these and we were bringing the Federal into
25 alignment, I might consider it, but as stated before,
26 the local RAC isn't even supporting this, so I see no
27 point to support it.

28
29 Madame Chair, thank you.

30
31 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Lisa.

32
33 MS. MAAS: Thank you, Madame Chair.
34 Just to clarify whether you're adopting the proposal
35 for all units or just Unit 25A West and 24 and then you
36 can take no action on other units or just clarify.

37
38 MR. BASSICH: The motion was for all
39 units in this proposal.

40
41 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That's what I
42 heard, yeah.

43
44 MS. MAAS: Okay.

45
46 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any other
47 discussion.

48
49 MR. GLANZ: Question.

50

Page 173

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: The question
2 has been called for. All in favor of Proposal 32 say
3 aye.

4
5 (No aye votes)

6
7 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All opposed
8 same sign.

9
10 IN UNISON: Aye.

11
12 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Motion fails.
13 I got that right that time.

14
15 I'm looking at time, guys. Oh, it's
16 7:00 o'clock.

17
18 MR. BASSICH: Let's quit. I think
19 everybody is getting tired.

20
21 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah. I was
22 hoping that we could get a little further. Just a
23 heads up. I may have to leave at 3:00 tomorrow to help
24 my husband with some work. Virgil will take over if
25 that happens.

26
27 MR. BASSICH: God help us.

28
29 (Laughter)

30
31 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: It starts at
32 9:00 in the morning, so we'll see everybody at 9:00.
33 Thanks, guys.

34
35 MR. BASSICH: Good job, Sue.

36
37 (Off record)

38
39 (PROCEEDINGS TO BE CONTINUED)

40

41

42

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C E R T I F I C A T E

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA)
) ss.
STATE OF ALASKA)

I, Salena A. Hile, Notary Public in and for the state of Alaska and reporter for Computer Matrix Court Reporters, LLC, do hereby certify:

THAT the foregoing pages numbered 02 through _____ contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the EASTERN INTERIOR FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING, VOLUME I taken electronically on the 8th day of November at Anchorage, Alaska;

THAT the transcript is a true and correct transcript requested to be transcribed and thereafter transcribed by under my direction and reduced to print to the best of our knowledge and ability;

THAT I am not an employee, attorney, or party interested in any way in this action.

DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 25th
day of November 2017.

Salena A. Hile
Notary Public, State of Alaska
My Commission Expires: 09/16/18